



Cyan Magenta Yellow Black

**March madness**

Company teams compete for post title

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# Fort Riley Post

**Baby deferment**

Dad stays behind until newborn, mom recover

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Friday, March 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 48, No. 10

**Around The Army****Korea:**

The Pacific Stars and Stripes reported March 9 that taxi rates for cabs on the Yongsan compound in Seoul will go up 20 percent starting March 15. The initial charge in Army and Air Force Exchange Service cabs will go from \$1.50 to \$1.80. The "per unit" charge – a combination of distance and time – will increase from 25 cents to 30 cents.

The increases are meant to keep up with the rising costs of driving cabs, an AAFES spokesman said.

Cab fares off base may be on the rise as well. Seoul city officials are considering raising taxi fares by 19.5 percent. That would increase the starting fare in "general" taxis, normally silver or white cabs, from 1,600 won to 2,000 won (about \$1.98).

For more on this story and other U.S. military news in the Pacific and European theaters, visit [www.estripes.com](http://www.estripes.com) on the Web.

**Fort Jackson:**

The Leader reported March 3 that the U.S. Army Chaplain



Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Starling

Center and School's new command sergeant major had assumed responsibility for her position.

Command Sgt. Maj. Bridgette Y. Starling is the first command sergeant major in the Chaplain Corps.

For more on this story and other Fort Jackson news, visit [www.fortjacksonleader.com/](http://www.fortjacksonleader.com/) on the Web.

**Fort Knox:**

The Turret reported March 3 that a Soldier rescuing a child from a dog attack was then attacked by the dog and suffered several bite injuries and cuts.

The sergeant lifted the boy above his head and placed him inside a fenced yard while the dogged continued to lunge at him and eventually attacked the sergeant, biting him in the arm and leg.

The sergeant made it home safely and called military police.

For more about this story and other Fort Knox news, visit [www.thenewsenrprise.com/turret/](http://www.thenewsenrprise.com/turret/) on the Web.

**Fort Belvoir:**

The Eagle reported March 3 that the spouses of seven state governors joined USO volunteers on Feb. 26 for a care package stuffing party at the organization's warehouse on Fort Belvoir.

The spouses were in town for the annual National Governors Association Winter Meeting held in the nation's capital on the same day.

For about one hour, the first ladies of Arkansas, Minnesota, Montana, Ohio, Vermont and Virginia, as well as Washington's first gentleman, Mike Gregoire, assembled packages that will be sent to deployed troops in the Middle East.

For more about this story and other Fort Belvoir news, visit [www.belvoireagle.com/](http://www.belvoireagle.com/) on the Web.

## Dawg fight



Soldiers of Co. D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, run with a load-bearing litter as part of the Delta Dawg Challenge Feb. 25. They did more push-ups, water jug shrugs and sandbag curls and ran faster than any other team in the battery's competition and earned a three-day pass.

### Battery competes in physical challenge

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

The training schedule showed physical training would be conducted Feb. 25.

Every Soldier knows what that means: sit-ups, push-ups and running.

For Battery D, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, Soldiers, it also meant the "Delta Dawg Challenge."

Battery Commander Cpt. Douglas Thomas and Staff Sgt. Marty Kerekes, platoon sergeant for the battery's 1st Platoon, set up the "Delta Dawg Challenge," to add some physical challenge and motivation to the routine training event as a way of testing the endurance of each Soldier in Btry. D.

Each battery section became a four- or five-man team for the competition. By the end of the event, each of the eight sections that competed had run two miles wearing a

flack jacket and had carried two five-gallon water jugs strapped to a stretcher.

The two-mile run passed four stations set a quarter mile apart.

At two stations, the teams stopped and dropped to perform as many push-ups and sandbag sit-ups as they individually could at one time. While one Soldier exercised to muscle failure, the others caught their breath and waited for their turn to add to

See Challenge, Page 2

## Irwin staffers claim honors

By Jan Clark

LACH

Irwin Army Community Hospital Soldiers recently won honors in competition with other Soldiers of the Great Plains Regional Medical Command.

Staff Sgt. Charlotte Taylor and Spc. Caleb Ekane were named the region's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year, respectively, for 2005.

Taylor, noncommissioned officer-in-charge of the hospital's Eyes, Ears, Nose and Throat Clinic, beat out other NCOs during the Feb. 21-23 competition.

Taylor said being prepared

See Honors, Page 2

## Crash claims lives

Staff report

Two Fort Riley Soldiers were killed after their car rolled over about 5 a.m. March 6 in Junction City.

According to a statement from the Junction City Police Department, Pvt. Osman Abdurahman of Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, was pronounced dead as a result of his injuries at Geary County Hospital.

The driver, Pvt. Maurice Smith, of Service Btry, 1st Bn., 5th FA, died March 7 at St. Francis Hospital in Wichita. He was air-lifted after the accident with head injuries.

Abdurahman, of Lansdowne, Pa., joined the Army Oct. 19, 2001, and was assigned to Fort Riley in December 2003.

Smith, of Columbus, Ga., enlisted in the Army Oct. 17, 2001, and was assigned to Fort Riley in April 2002.

A memorial service was held for both Soldiers March 10 at Morris Hill Chapel.

## Post mourns Soldiers killed

### Farnan, Moski remembered at memorial

By April Blackmon

Staff writer



Helmets, rifles, boots, dog tags and photos stand at the front of Morris Hill Chapel in memory of the two Soldiers killed.

Family and friends gathered at Morris Hill Chapel to remember the lives of two Fort Riley Soldiers March 4.

Spes. Colby Farnan and Jason Moski, both of Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, were killed Feb. 25 in an improvised explosive device attack in Taji, Iraq.

At the memorial, Soldiers who knew and worked with Farnan and Moski shared stories about their memories and encounters with the two artillerymen.

"I remember the highly competitive Playstation NFL or NBA games that would always be going

See Memorial, Page 3



Post/Blackmon

### Kearneys leave Fort Riley

Members of the Fort Riley community bid farewell to Brig. Gen. Frank Kearney, assistant division commander for support for the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), and his wife, Betty Sue, at the general's departure ceremony March 3 at Ware Parade Field. Kearney left Fort Riley March 8 to assume a new post as commander of Special Operations Command Central Command in Tampa, Fla.



*Post/Baker*  
Spc. Jonathan Simpson (front right) leads his section during the Delta Dawg Challenge, a competitive physical training session. Spc. Preston Hummel, Pfc. Johnny Casarez, Pvt. David Nolette and Sgt. Michael Haller watch and wait to relieve the next person at the push-up station. Their section did more than 380 push-ups in four minutes.

## Challenge

continued from page 1

the team's score by doing as many repetitions as they could.

The other two stations tested the Soldiers' arm and shoulder muscles with 10-pound sandbag curls and five-gallon water jug shrugs.

Altogether, the team spent four minutes at each graded station.

After the points were tallied, Soldiers of the 6th Section had won first place. Each Soldier in the section received a three-day pass, a certificate of achievement and a battalion commander's coin.

The 6th Section also earned the right to be the "Keeper of the Bone," a rotating plaque, until the next competition, Thomas said.

Every team was exhausted at the end, and most Soldiers said the session was better than a typical physical training session.

"We tried to max all the events. The two-mile run killed me. I carried a 30-pound ruck sack," said Spc. Jonathan Simpson of the 6th Section.

Simpson and his team did 325

push-ups, 174 sandbag sit-ups, ried the stretcher for two miles in 472 water jug shrugs and 259 51:30.0 including a four-minute sandbag curls. They ran and car- stop at each station.



*Post/Baker*  
Soldiers of Co. D, 1st Bn., 5th FA, race to finish in the Delta Dawg Challenge Feb. 25.

# DFAS changes Web address

Army News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site changed from [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) to [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas) as of March 1.

Webmasters who link to the site or pages within the site should review their links and update them accordingly. The current site at [www.dfas.mil](http://www.dfas.mil) will remain available through March 31.

After that date, users will be redirected to the root level of the new site at [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas) and direct links to pages at the previous site will generate an error message notifying users of the move.

This move will enhance the performance of the DFAS public Web site, provide redundancy to prevent down time and provide opportunity for enhanced features

## New address

*The Defense Finance and Accounting Service public Web site address is [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas).*

in the future, DFAS officials said.

"Our goal is to provide the best service and products possible to the men and women who defend America," said Claudia L. Bogard, director of Corporate Communications at DFAS. "With this move, our customers can rely on DFAS for faster access to information whenever they need it from anywhere around the globe at any hour of the day or night."

The new hosting of DFAS' public Web site will provide the following benefits:

- Increase the speed of the site by more than 12 times.
- Provide redundancy to prevent down time.
- Improve search capability to allow DFAS content to be found on any dod.mil site.

- Allow DFAS content to be found at any of the following URLs:
  - [www.dod.mil/dfas](http://www.dod.mil/dfas)
  - [www.defense.mil/dfas](http://www.defense.mil/dfas)
  - [www.pentagon.gov/dfas](http://www.pentagon.gov/dfas)
  - [www.defense.gov/dfas](http://www.defense.gov/dfas)
  - [www.defenselink.mil/dfas](http://www.defenselink.mil/dfas)
  - [www.defense.gov/dfas](http://www.defense.gov/dfas)

- Create stronger alignment between DFAS and DoD public Web sites.
- Provide greater opportunities for enhanced features in the future.
- Reduce the burden of public Web traffic to DFAS networks.



*IACH/Clark*  
Staff Sgt. Charlotte Taylor, NCOIC for EENT, was named NCO of the Year.



*IACH/Clark*  
Spc. Caleb Ekane was named Soldier of the Year for 2005.

## Honors

continued from page 1

helped. "I was nervous. I'm always nervous, but the overwhelming support and mentoring I received at IACH in preparation helped keep my nerves at an even keel. The training and competition here definitely made the GPRMC competition just that little bit easier," she said.

Taylor said her personal interests are the known do and weight lifting.

Ekane faced a physical training test after wakeup at 4 a.m. Feb. 21. Common tasks training and a written test closed out the first day's competition.

Day two began and ended with land navigation, the toughest part of the competition for him, Ekane said.

Ekane presented himself to a panel of six command sergeants major on the final day of competi-

tion. The panel members questioned his knowledge of Army subjects and this was where Ekane felt he excelled.

When the panel announced Ekane had won, "I was ecstatic," he said. "Now, we move on to the U.S. Army Medical Command competition. With continued support from our leadership at Irwin Army Community Hospital, I'm optimistic for both Staff Sgt. Taylor and myself."

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1st Bn., 5th FA/Sgt. Kevin Bromley  
Command Sgt. Maj. Philip Johndrow pays last respects to  
Spc. Colby Farnan and Spc. Jason Moski at Camp Taji, Iraq.

## Memorial

continued from page 1

on in 2nd Platoon's living area, and then-Pfc. Moski would be in the thick of it," said 1st Lt. Forrest Helvie, speaking about the unit's first tour in Iraq. "Despite my being a second lieutenant, Jason would still invite me to grab a seat and join the guys. He helped make me feel a part of the unit."

"Like Jason, Colby could always be found joking around with his fellow Soldiers when they weren't hard at work, and even then the joking didn't always end. I remember him flexing his muscles and asking our arms man -- if he had room "to store these big guns," Helvie said.

Spc. Michael Kilmer remembered the kindness and loyalty of his two friends.

"(Colby) was a man who was very honest and loyal to everyone that knew him. You were a great Soldier and a good friend, and you'll always be in our hearts. We'll miss you Colby," Kilmer said.

"(Jason) was very kind and giving to everyone. If you needed help, he was there for you. Jason was a dear friend who will be sadly missed but never forgotten," he said.

Both Soldiers were posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Purple Heart and the Good Conduct Medal.

### Spc. Colby Farnan

Born June 11, 1982, in Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

Enlisted in the Army Aug. 13, 2002. Completed basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., and then attended AIT to become an artilleryman.

Assigned to Fort Riley Decem-



Spc. Colby  
Farnan

### Spc. Jason Moski

Born June 20, 1980 in Columbia, S.C.

Enlisted in the Army Aug. 12, 2002. Completed basic training at Fort Sill, Okla., and then attended AIT to become an artilleryman.

Assigned to Fort Riley Aug. 2003. Deployed to Iraq January 2005 with Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery.

Awards and decorations include: Valorous Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and Army Service Ribbon.

Spc. Jason  
Moski

By Matthew Wester  
100th MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Iraq -- "Moski and Farnan, Beast Platoon will never forget you," said Sgt. 1st Class David Wells, the platoon sergeant for two Soldiers killed in action and remembered March 1.

Wells' simple words captured the essence of the memorial service for Spc. Jason L. Moski, a Leavenworth, Kan., native and Spc. Colby M. Farnan of Columbia, S.C., both members of "Beast" Platoon, Battery B, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

Moski and Farnan died Feb. 25 during a dismounted sweep for improvised explosive devices near Tarmiya, Iraq. IED sweeps are designed to make the roads safe and are a key part of the mission in Iraq.

Hundreds of members of 4th Bn., 1st FA, and other units stood in formation to hear their leaders

describe the sacrifice of two fallen brothers-in-arms.

"Farnan and Moski took a stand," said Lt. Col. Richard Bowyer, 4th Bn. commander. "They took a stand to do the right thing every day, without fear, without hesitation, knowing full well the dangers they faced."

"They represent all that is good with our Army and our country, and their stand was not in vain," Bowyer continued. "In their own way they have left a lasting mark on each of us who serve and with their families."

Some of the Soldiers and officers who served with Farnan and Moski shared the ways these Soldiers left a lasting mark on their lives.

"To us he was a friend," Wells said, describing Moski. "He was the irreverent artist whose drawings would always make you laugh. He was the low-key comedian who could always put a bright spin on the worst situation."

Wells remembered Moski as a

devoted family man, who is survived by his wife and young daughter.

"Farnan always spoke with reverence about his parents and never missed the opportunity to spend weekends at home in Missouri while at Fort Riley," Wells said.

The Soldiers' battery commander, Capt. Ty Martin, gave his perspective on what it was like to lead these two warriors as they fulfilled their duty in Iraq.

"Without doubt, Spc. Farnan and Spc. Moski were great Soldiers and a pleasure to work with," he said. "To lead such men is an honor that few experience."

Martin encouraged his men to let these model Soldiers be their example and offered some advice on how to deal with their loss.

"Please consider the advice of Teddy Roosevelt," Martin urged.

"Life brings sorrows and joys alike. It is what a man does with them, not what they do to him, that is a test of his mettle," Martin said, quoting the former president.

Chap. (Capt.) Brian Reed, the battalion's chaplain, gave the Soldiers attending the memorial words of encouragement, challenging them to honor Farnan and Moski by continuing this vital work.

"Don't let Spc. Farnan's and Moski's sacrifice be in vain," he said. "Help each other accomplish the mission these two set out to do as well."

Reed told the Soldiers it was time to get in the zone as they took over full control of combat operations in their area of responsibility.

Many troops chose to honor them individually at the end of the memorial. They filed past a display of Farnan's and Moski's helmets, identification tags, boots, medals and rifles.

Some rendered a hand salute and some paused and touched the tags and helmets, taking the opportunity to reach out and say goodbye to the brothers they lost, but will not forget.

## Post starts WIA program to aid injured

24th Inf. Div. (Mech) GI staff

Fort Riley has implemented a Wounded in Action (WIA) program that provides active duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers and families with a support system that integrates available personal and professional care.

The program incorporates and integrates several existing programs under a coordinator who facilitates and coordinates support for Soldiers wounded in action and families from the time of initial casualty notification and beyond.

The intent of the program is to ensure families have a central point of contact for resources and assistance.

The WIA program coordinator serves as an advocate and works closely with local and national agencies to identify resources and benefits available to families of wounded Soldiers. Benefits

include, but are not limited to, monetary assistance, calling cards, free air transportation to medical facilities and personal and professional care.

The key element of the WIA program includes a network of resources not limited to Fort Riley and volunteer support. Soldiers and families who require assistance should contact the WIA program coordinator at the Casualty Assistance Office, 239-5520.

In addition, the WIA program provides Fort Riley casualty liaison officers stationed at major medical facilities: Brooke Army Medical Center, Fort Sam Houston, Texas; Walter Reed Army Medical Center, Washington, D.C.; and Landstuhl Regional Medical Center in Germany.

The liaison officers monitor and coordinate all required assistance for wounded Soldiers from the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley. They work closely with family readiness groups, rear detachments and other support activities to resolve issues and facilitate assistance to include assisting family members traveling to any of the medical facilities.

The WIA program provides a holistic approach for assistance and support to all wounded Soldiers and their families.

### WIA Assistance Programs



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# City, fort tapped for partnership

## Staff report

Fort Riley and Junction City have been selected by the Department of the Army and the National Trust for Historic Preservation's Main Street Center in Washington, D.C., as one of six communities in the country to be the focus of a project that seeks to strengthen the economic, historic and social ties between Army installations and historic commercial districts in neighboring communities.

Fort Riley Project Co-Chairman Bob Beardsley and Junction City Project Co-Chairman Bob Henderson made the joint announcement Feb. 23.

Representatives from the National Trust Main Street Center and the Department of the Army will visit downtown Junction City and Fort Riley March 15-16 to introduce the program called Army-Community Heritage Partnerships to the community and to the post.

The visitors include Teresa Lynch, NTMSP senior program associate and project coordinator; William Armbruster, Army deputy assistant secretary for privatization and partnerships; and Gary Robinson, director of the Army's Office of Historic Properties.

The project will provide the Junction City project committee and city officials information about services Soldiers and their families would like to have available in the area but that Fort Riley cannot provide for them, Beardsley said at a meeting of core members of the post and community committees spearheading the project.

The benefit to Junction City businesses will be the free technical assistance and advice the NTMSP provides to help communities develop ways to meet existing needs, Henderson said.

The opportunity to become a part of the historic venture was presented to Junction City area business leaders last fall.

"We saw this as another avenue to enhance our partnership with Fort Riley and focus attention on the rich heritage this community shares with the U.S. Army," said Junction City Chamber of Commerce President and Chief Executive Officer Cheryl Lyn Higgins.

"Securing the designation would not have been possible without the support of City Manager Rod Barnes and Deputy Garrison Commander Helen Gough."

Lynch said she is looking forward to the visit. "The visit will provide valuable insight on how the relationship between Fort Riley and the community of Junction City can be strengthened and

lead to economic growth for the downtown district," she said.

Lynch said the services and technical assistance NTMSP provides will focus on preservation-based economic development strategies that will strengthen Fort Riley connections to Junction City and help increasing the vitality of the city's historic downtown commercial district.

One of the primary goals of the project, Lynch said, is "to better serve the Army family - those individuals who make up the military and civilian population and visitors to Fort Riley. This can be done by providing enhanced shopping opportunities, product availability, services and new attractions in the downtown district."

Lynch said Fort Riley offers tremendous market opportunities for downtown Junction City. "The Heritage Partnership project will assist the community in developing strategies to take advantage of those circumstances."

"Another goal of the project is to create a stronger bond between Fort Riley and the Junction City community by demonstrating shared heritage. We will be investigating the potential for heritage tourism and the economic opportunities the tourism sector can provide both for the downtown district and for reuse of historic buildings at Fort Riley," Lynch said.

The visitors are scheduled to meet with the Fort Riley core group from 9 a.m. to noon March 15 at Riley's Convention Center. They meet with the Junction City core group from 1:30 to 4 p.m. the same day at location to be announced.

The visitors will meet with the post and city communities at large from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Junction City Municipal Building, 700 N. Jefferson St.

The purpose of the public meeting is to introduce the program's concept and objectives to the public and to describe ways in which the Main Street approach to downtown revitalization can help create a strong partnership program between Fort Riley and the downtown district of Junction City.

A Partnership Team, made up of representatives from Fort Riley and the community, will be established during the visit.

Lynch said the Partnership Team and additional task forces will meet on a regular basis as the program of work progresses and as technical assistance services are delivered.



Staff Sgt. Thomas Jackson (second from right), G3 operations noncommissioned officer, 24th Inf. Div. Forward, and 1st Sgt. Cleveland Smith (far right), senior enlisted adviser, 24th Inf. Div. (Mech), observe Soldiers from Co. A, 1st Bn., 121st Inf., 48th BCT, as they receive instructions on how to properly perform security checks on persons attempting to enter a forward operating base. One of G3's responsibilities is to oversee the training of the 48th BCT prior to its deployment.

## G3 trains Georgia Guardsmen

By James Tamez

19th PAD

When Soldiers are placed in a war zone situation they are not trained to handle, their chances of returning home alive grow shorter by the bullet.

To remedy this, the G3 section of 24th Infantry Division (Mech) is providing training oversight for the Georgia Army National Guard's 48th Brigade Combat Team at Fort Stewart, Ga. Soldiers of the 48th BCT, a brigade of the 24th Inf. Div., are preparing for deployment to Iraq later this year in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"In 1998, Congress determined it was beneficial for the National Guard to have an active duty division headquarters to oversee their training," said Sgt. 1st Class Michael Dunlap, noncommissioned-officer-in-charge of the plans, training and mobilization (G3) staff section.

"The 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) activated on June 5, 1999, with the purpose of (overseeing) the training of National Guard brigades. (It) was assigned the 218th Heavy Separate Brigade from South Carolina, the 30th Heavy Separate Brigade from North Carolina and the 48th

Brigade Combat Team (BCT) from Georgia. With those brigades assigned ... our responsibilities lie in ensuring they receive the training they need to be effective and to survive in any situation they find themselves in."

"We provide the 48th BCT with the established Army standards required to properly prepare their Soldiers for combat operations," said Lt. Col. Frank Sherman, G3 officer-in-charge. "We ensure that all required training tasks are met, properly validated and (Soldiers are) prepared for movement. We prepare them at the individual and collective levels and prepare their leadership for their roles in combat."

"Whether it is a global positioning system so that Soldiers can figure out their location or an M1A1 Abrams tank, we want the Soldiers to be confident in the equipment they are using," Dunlap said. He added some of the equipment and training the 48th BCT is qualifying on are the M16A2 rifle, the MK-19 grenade launcher, the M203 grenade launcher, Bradley gunnery tables, Abrams tank tables, convoy live-fire operations, urban operations, first aid, NBC (nuclear, biological and chemical) training and combative training.

G3's job demands more than going to the ranges and observing the training.

"We coordinate with 1st Brigade, 87th Division (Training Support); 4th Bde., 87th Div. (TS); 5th Bde., 87th Div. (TS), Fort Stewart; the mobilization center at Fort Jackson, S.C.; 24th Inf. Div. headquarters at Fort Riley, Kansas; and 1st Army in Atlanta," said Capt. Justin Schaefer, 24th Inf. Div. G3 liaison officer with the 48th BCT. We also coordinate with civilian contractors.

"Our purpose is to work with those units and ensure the 48th BCT is getting a coordinated effect so they are not dispersed everywhere trying to get information from all the different entities. We act as their higher headquarters, issue orders, assist them in tracking their status and act as a funnel of information from all outside sources," Schaefer said.

"Using a wagon wheel as an example, G3 is the hub," Dunlap said. "All the resources that we need are the outside of the wheel. The spokes connect us together. We coordinate with agencies, manufacturers and support personnel to get everything together to make the wheel functional. Without all parts

working together, the wagon isn't going to roll."

Dunlap said the G3 wants to make sure the wagon that is the 48th BCT rolls on efficiently and confidently, knowing they have received the best possible training.

Sherman agrees with that belief and spoke very proudly about what the G3 is accomplishing and has accomplished.

"There is nothing more important than preparing Soldiers to go into combat and to give them the most realistic training possible," Sherman said. "I am constantly amazed that the smallest G3 section of any division in the U.S. Army accomplishes more and prepares more Soldiers for combat than any of the much larger division G3 staffs. I have nothing but pride in their accomplishments. This is the most important thing that we can be doing," he said.

Schaefer echoed Sherman's thought, adding, "If you see it as a railroad, the 48th BCT is the train and we are the tracks pointing them in the right direction and keeping them on the trail to victory."

Pfc. James Tamez is on assignment with the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) at Fort Stewart, Ga.

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# Commentary

Friday, March 11, 2005

Fort Riley Post

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## Riley Roundtable

### This week's question:

What is the best way to support military families whose Soldiers are deployed?



"Keep checking on them. Keep in contact with them to make sure any needs are being handled."

**Sgt. 1st Class Billy Counts**  
First sergeant for new military police company  
Home: Paint Rock, Ark.



"Adopt a Soldier so they can send them supplies like paper, stamps and toilet paper. That helps keep the family's expenses down."

**Marie Engle**  
Army spouse  
Home: Centralia, Ill.



"To be aggressively available to listen to them vent, to help with children, to do things with them. Don't just offer to baby sit their kids so they can go out; offer to get a baby sitter for all the kids and go out with her."

**Nancy Lachut**  
Army spouse  
Home: Arkansas



"Family Readiness Groups keeping the family information up-to-date so they can get information to the family about what the Soldier is doing overseas."

**Sgt. Darryl Myers**  
Personnel Services NCO  
382nd Logistics Support Battalion,  
3rd Brigade, 75th Division (TS)



"Social support. Be a friend to a young wife or spouse. Spend time with them and mentor them about how to deal with the separation."

**1st Lt. Janique Parnell**  
Social worker  
1908th Medical Detachment  
Home: Fort Hood, Texas

### Next week's question:

What is your biggest safety concern about living and working at Fort Riley?

Opinions may be e-mailed to the editor at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil) or faxed to the editor at 239-2592. Opinions must reach the editor by close of business Tuesdays to appear in the following Friday's paper.

*Editor's note: The following comments are taken from a radio interview Marine Gen. James L. Jones, commander of U.S. European Command and supreme allied commander for Europe, that was aired on National Public Radio's "The Diane Rehm Show" March 3 and an American Forces Press Service release.*

The European Command is undergoing a profound transformation from the way things were in the 20th century when the United States had a clearly defined enemy in the Soviet Union and a static, reactive defensive posture designed to fight a war that, happily, never came. EUCOM is redefining both its structure and its mission.

At the same time, NATO is redefining and re-missioning itself. The threats of the Cold War have been replaced by an asymmetric family of threats that face all NATO nations, including the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, illegal immigration and narcoterrorism.

Over the last two years, NATO has rid itself of obsolete infrastructure and transformed from an alliance with a defensive mindset focused on a fixed enemy to one with a much more global and expeditionary concept of operations.

The most stunning example of



**Gen. James Jones**

this is the NATO Response Force, which will be fully operational in 2006 and ready to move anywhere in the world on five days' notice. The NATO Response Force will

serve as a complement to the types of operations the U.S. military has undertaken in recent years.

Another major change is NATO's willingness to operate in places outside its borders, such as Afghanistan, Iraq and the Balkans.

NATO also is deeply engaged in the effort to help struggling democracies help themselves, particularly in regions such as Africa and the Caucasus, to ensure they do not become the Afghanistan and Iraqs of tomorrow.

With their recent elections, the Iraqi people made an eloquent and courageous statement that bodes well for the future of that country. This is the time to stay the course, and NATO will help.

## European Command

# Commander talks transformation, hope

All 26 NATO nations have voted to take on the mission of training and advising the new Iraqi security forces. The training will proceed in three ways:

- First, NATO will train Iraqi security forces and the emerging Iraqi general staff within Iraq.
- Second, NATO nations will train Iraqi security forces in countries other than Iraq.
- Third, NATO will serve as a type of clearing house for military equipment and other donations that can be used immediately by the Iraqi security forces.

Already the mission is going extraordinarily well.

Training has begun at the senior headquarters level, and the training of roughly 1,000 junior-to-middle-grade officers will begin in the near future. An additional 500 Iraqi security forces will be trained outside Iraq.

We are well into the developmental and production cycle of turning out capable Iraqi fighting units that, over time, will be able to stand on their own.

It is a significant challenge, but one with profound implications for the future. Whatever time it takes to accomplish will be worth it for the future.

The insurgency in Iraq is weakening. Those now being targeted by suicide bombers are primarily Iraqis. In time, it will be a

problem for the Iraqi security forces to solve. Until then, the multinational coalition will be there to help.

The force assembled to defeat Saddam Hussein's army was indeed adequate and did so in rapid fashion — more rapidly, in fact, than anyone expected. As for any lack of armor or equipment, the forces that delivered the stunning victory over the Iraqi regime were not under-equipped.

Urban warfare is the most difficult and costly fight we can engage in. Fallujah presented tough problems, but the Marines — well trained and well led — did an extraordinary job.

In Fallujah, the insurgents made a strategic error. They thought world opinion would force us to pull back and keep us from going on to the bitter end. Had they believed we would persevere, I believe they would have left town a lot quicker.

Fallujah was a major strategic defeat for the insurgency, and I'm not sure they have completely recovered.

The coalition is engaged in a massive effort to bring peace, stability and democracy to countries that have not had that experience. I am absolutely convinced that it will be successful.

## Letter to editor

# Awareness needed

Traffic crashes are the number one killer of children in Kansas, the number one killer of adults under the age of 34. The weekend deaths of two Fort Riley Soldiers added to this year's traffic fatality statistics.

Last year, 456 people died on Kansas roadways. An additional 2,000 suffered disabling injuries and some 23,000 suffered other injuries.

Secretary of Transportation Deb Miller, Secretary of Health and Environment Roderick Bremby and Col. William Seck, superintendent of the Kansas Highway Patrol, have joined forces to raise awareness across the state about the number of fatalities and

injuries happening on Kansas roadways and the emotional and financial toll they take.

Individuals and groups are being asked to join KDOT, KDHE and KHP at the community forums to share their perspectives and thoughts on traffic crashes and the impact they have on everyone's lives.

One of the forums is scheduled for 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. March 30 in Lawrence at the Visitor Information Center, 402 N. 2nd St.

People interested in participating in the community forums should call Maggie Thompson, KDOT Public Involvement Liaison, at (785) 296-5613.

**Kansas Department of Transportation**

## Letter to editor

# Job fair praised

Both Soldiers and employers were very satisfied with the job fair on Feb. 11 hosted by the Army Career and Alumni Program. Twenty-four employers participated in the event and presented job opportunities nationwide, overseas and locally to some 200 people in attendance.

A representative from AutoZone said this was the most diversified group of employers he had seen in a long time, referring to job fairs he has seen at many other Army posts.

A senior noncommissioned officer said he was extremely

pleased and had four employers desiring to obtain his services as a new employee.

Individuals desiring employment in the local communities and on post were able to visit representatives with the Kansas Workforce Center, co-located in the ACAP Center.

The next job fair will be May 13. Please mark your calendars. For more information, call the ACAP Center at 239-2278 or 239-2248.

**Jim Yates**  
Counselor

## Grunt By Wayne Uhden



## FORT RILEY POST

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Your opinion is important to the Post editor and staff. Please take a moment to tell us how well we are doing our job of keeping you informed about what is happening at Fort Riley. Fax the form to (785) 239-2592 or clip and mail this form to Editor, Public Affairs Office, Building 405, Fort Riley, KS 66442, or drop the form at building 405. You may also send your opinions to the staff by e-mail at [mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil](mailto:mike.heronemus@riley.army.mil).

### What are your concerns or suggestions for improvement?

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Your name (optional) and phone number (if you would like to talk about your ideas):



## Post news in brief

### ATV courses scheduled

A Dirt Bike Rider Course is scheduled for 10 a.m. March 19 and April 17 at the McGee Farm in Wakefield.

An ATV Rider Course is scheduled for 8 a.m. and again at 1 p.m. March 13, 14 and 28 and April 10, 11, 24 and 25 at the McGee Farm. Each class can accommodate six students.

The hands-on, half-day ATV Rider Course and Dirt Bike Rider Course are conducted by licensed ASI instructors. The course offers students an opportunity to increase their safety knowledge and to practice basic riding skills in a controlled environment under the direct supervision of a licensed instructor.

Students practice basic safety techniques with hands-on exercises. Particular emphasis is placed on the safety implications relating to each lesson. The course also covers protective gear, environmental concerns and local laws.

Participants receive the Dirt Bike and ATV Rider Course Handbook that reinforces the safety information and riding techniques covered during the instruction.

Individuals 6 years of age and older may take the class. Riders younger than 16 are restricted to dirt bikes and ATVs of the size recommended for the rider's age.

There are special teaching provisions for students under 16 years old, and parents are encouraged to attend. Students younger than 12 participate in separate classes and a parent must be present during the entire course.

Class size is determined by the age of the students: maximum of eight for 16 and older, maximum of six for 12 to 15 and maximum of four for 6 to 12 years old. Parents or guardian must attend with students ages 6 to 11.

Students under the age of 18 must have a parent or guardian sign the consent form.

For more information, call Vanita Fiedler at 239-2334.

### Riley's to host food, Karaoke

Fun, food and Karaoke is on tap from 5 to 8 p.m. March 25 at Riley's Conference Center.

Eligible patrons are invited to show their talents and perhaps become "Fort Riley's Idol." Light refreshments and a cash bar will be available.

Admission is a \$3 cover charge at the door.

For more information or to reserve a place behind the mike, call 784-1000 by March 22.

### Post security exercise set

Fort Riley will conduct a post-wide security exercise March 15-16. Additional security personnel may be positioned around key buildings and facilities on post, and additional inspections may occur at access control points.

### Chaplains slate sunrise service

Fort Riley's annual Easter sunrise nondenomination worship services will take place from 6:30 to 7:30 a.m. March 27 at the Outdoor Chapel off 1st Division Road.

Guest speaker for the service will be retired Maj. Gen. Orris Kelly, a former chief of chaplains now living in Manhattan.

The worship service will be 8 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

The Army does not use stop loss orders to make up for any shortages in enlistments or re-enlistments, said Lt. Col. Matthew Richards, assistant chief of staff for personnel (G1) for the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) last month.

His response came following sensing sessions conducted by the post's inspector general, Lt. Col. Scott Prinitz, with Soldiers at Fort Riley.

Those sensing sessions revealed that some Soldiers believe stop loss orders are used to make up for reductions in the numbers of Soldiers available for deployments to Iraq.

The Army used military occupation specialty stop losses in the past when shortages in critical job skills were forecast at times Soldiers with those critical skills would be needed for imminent tactical missions. "No MOS stop losses are in effect now," Richards said, "and it's been close to two years since the Army has seen a need to issue such an order. I see the Army doing that again if no other options are available."

Instead, the Army uses unit stop loss orders to help commanders set their unit teams for upcoming missions, Richards said. Stop loss orders keep a unit intact by preventing significant losses of experienced and trained Soldiers at times when a high state of unit readiness is imperative for mission accomplishment and individual safety, he added.

Stop losses allow unit crews to reach high levels of gunnery proficiency and units to develop cohesiveness in all types of tactical operations they train for, Richards said.

Stop losses also add a high degree of trust among members of

the unit. "When Soldiers train together, they learn to trust each other because they know who is on their left and who is on their right," Richards said. When Soldiers train together and trust in each other's skills, more Soldiers come home safely, he pointed out.

Richards said he has even seen units adversely affected when training for exercises at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, Calif., or Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., because of Soldiers leaving and new Soldiers being assigned as their replacements.

Unit stop loss orders aren't new to Army strategy; they were used before Desert Storm, Richards said. They have been used more frequently during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, primarily because unit rotations are more frequent, he said.

### Stop loss may delay re-enlistment

Stop loss decisions don't come as a surprise. Units generally know well in advance of when they will deploy again, and Soldiers have time to make career decisions about re-enlistment or retirement to avoid delays in those plans because they get caught up in a stop loss order, said Maj. Shirley Sutton, G1 strength management officer.

Soldiers can face delays in re-enlistment or retirement should their unit receive a stop loss order. Those orders generally prevent Soldiers from leaving their units 90 days before and during deployments and for 90 days after returning from deployments.

With unit rotations to Iraq generally coming within a year of each other or as quickly as eight or 10 months, Soldiers must plan their

re-enlistments with options granted during that window of time between returns and pre-deployment lock-downs.

Soldiers who choose a movement type re-enlistment must program those movements to occur sometime between 90 days after their return from Iraq and the 90 days before they expect another unit stop loss order to be effective, said Sgt. Maj. Thomas Kelly, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of retention for the 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) and Fort Riley.

Otherwise, Soldiers who have re-enlisted for an assignment move will find themselves deferred from their new assignment until after 90 days following their return from Iraq, he explained.

Soldiers eligible to re-enlist face a further time hurdle because re-enlistment counselors cannot usually get a new assignment or new training for a Soldier until they are within 12 months of the day they can report for duty or training at the new assignment, Kelly said.

Stop loss orders have affected re-enlistment plans for hundreds of Soldiers at Fort Riley, Kelly said. Some moves have been delayed beyond original report dates because of stop loss orders, but they move once they return from deployment, he said.

"Leaders have been working with their Soldiers and will continue to work with their Soldiers to ensure their re-enlistment guarantees are met," Kelly said.

Though stop loss has caused some restrictions on when post re-enlistment counselors can get Soldiers their requested movement options, Kelly said staff members at the Army's Human Resources Command have given local counselors some help.

"For example, once a Soldier is deployed, he or she can re-enlist

anytime he or she wants and receive a bonus regardless of the re-enlistment window," Kelly said.

Another option HRC has opened for Soldiers in an over-strength MOS is that any Soldier, deployed or not, can re-enlist for retraining into a new MOS regardless of the window of eligibility for re-enlistment, he said.

### Stop loss may affect retirement plans, too

Soldiers who want to retire may not escape stop loss orders and deployment just because they request to retire, Richards pointed out. Retirement is not guaranteed just because a Soldier has spent at least 20 years in the Army. Requests can be disapproved, he said.

Congress mandated that the Army must retire active duty Soldiers when they reach age 55 or when they complete 30 years of active service, Richards explained. It is not Army policy that retirement requests must be granted; so, to improve chances for approval of retirement requests, Soldiers should request retirement dates that fall at times between their return from deployment and an expected new stop loss order for their unit, he suggested.

One sergeant first class at Fort Riley was nearing his 55th birthday but delayed putting in his retirement request because he wanted to see if he made the promotion list, said Kathy Cunningham, post retirement services officer. He wound up having to deploy to Iraq, she said.

Another hurdle in retirement approval came late last year when Department of the Army decided that retirements must be approved by HRC instead of Fort Riley officials. That has caused some delays in paperwork, Cunningham said,

although a recent change that assigned one staff member to handle all Fort Riley requests has made it easier for her to keep track of retirement requests.

Still, Soldiers have plenty of time to request retirement dates, Sutton said. Soldiers can request retirement up to a year in advance, she explained. If a retirement date conflicts with a new stop loss order, it is likely the retirement will be deferred until the Soldier returns from the ordered unit deployment, she said.

### Exceptions may be granted

Soldiers can request exception to deployment if they have approved retirement dates, Richards said. Some Soldiers at Fort Riley have requested they be exempted from deployment because of approved retirement dates, but that number was fewer in number recently than in the past year or so, he said.

About half of the requests for exemption from deployment were approved by local battalion commanders. Each case is considered individually and exceptions have only been granted in cases of extreme personal situations, Richards said.

Again, delays in requesting exemptions often goes against the Soldier, because commanders don't want to deploy short of needed enlisted leaders, he said.

The bottom line, Richards reminded, is that the probability of stop loss orders upsetting re-enlistment or retirement plans means Soldiers should think seriously about their futures, whether that be in or out of the Army, instead of making quick decisions.

"This is not a good time for impulsive decisions," he said.

## Re-up policy gives bonus to deployed

By David Foley

Army News Service

CAMP VICTORY, IRAQ - Like any major corporation, the Army is always looking for ways to retain its trained and qualified employees.

One of the ways the Army does this is by providing Soldiers with re-enlistment bonuses. Until recently, only Soldiers of certain rank or military occupational specialty qualified for re-enlistment bonuses.

Soldiers also had to wait for their re-enlistment window to open before they could re-enlist, thus making it difficult for them to get tax-free bonuses by signing up during a deployment.

However, all that changed Jan. 18 when the Department of the Army sent out a military personnel message to Army career counselors around the globe. The Selective Re-enlistment Bonus-Deployed Program allows deployed Soldiers to re-enlist while abroad for a chance to receive a tax-free bonus of up to \$15,000.

"Basically, you can re-enlist outside of your window while the re-enlistment bonus is in a deployment area where it will be tax free," said Sgt. 1st Class Jorge Garcia, career counselor, Task Force Dragon, Camp Victory, Iraq.

Garcia said the program is a great opportunity for Soldiers because many of them wouldn't qualify for a re-enlistment bonus if they re-enlisted without being deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Wilkerson, 18th Airborne Corps, re-enlisted in front of the Al Fav Palace Feb. 7 and was awarded a \$5,600 bonus. Wilkerson said he didn't get the opportunity to re-enlist during his last deployment because his window wasn't open and he waited until this deployment just so he could re-enlist in Iraq.

However, he said he was glad to hear about the bonus and thinks it will encourage other Soldiers to re-enlist even though they are more

likely to deploy again.

Maj. Raymond Bowyer, who swore in Wilkerson during his re-enlistment ceremony, said he fully supports the program.

"I think it will contribute to keeping good Soldiers who are sitting on the fence and can't decide whether to stay in the Army," Bowyer said.

Soldiers have two options when re-enlisting under the new program. They can sign up for the needs of the Army, which lets the Army choose their next duty station; or stabilization, which locks in their current duty station for two years after they redeploy.

Even though most Soldiers will qualify for a bonus if they re-enlist while deployed, Garcia said not everyone will get the full \$15,000 and some may not even qualify for a bonus.

Under the new program, Soldiers will fall into two categories based on their pay grade and time in service. Soldiers in their initial term of enlistment who have served between 17 months and six years fall into the A zone, whereas Soldiers who have served between six and 10 years fall into the B zone.

Soldiers in the A zone will be awarded 1.5 times their monthly base pay multiplied by the number of years they re-enlist for beyond their current ETS date.

Soldiers in the B zone will qualify for their base pay multiplied by the number of years they re-enlist. All bonuses will be paid in one lump sum.

Garcia said Soldiers in some MOSs might qualify for more money based on their standard bonuses. "For instance," he said, "an explosive ordnance disposal specialist normally qualifies for 3.5 times their base pay multiplied by the number of years and can go up to \$30,000, so they would want to stick with that option."

For more information about Selective Re-enlistment Bonuses, Soldiers should speak to their unit or installation career counselor.

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## Infantrymen practice dismounted drills

*By Christopher Selmek*  
*19th PAD*

The morning was cool with chilly winds that numbed fingers and made the routine of shaving and showering in the field unpleasant, to say the least. But, there wasn't a Soldier in Company A, 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, who wasn't sure that the day would warm up considerably once the bullets started flying.

At this point, the two teams had been in the field for several days, practicing such tactical maneuvers as buddy teaming, clearing the interior of buildings and military operations in an urban terrain.

The Soldiers were tired and ready to go home. Only one exercise stood between them and the bus back to Main Post, but as they packed up the tent and made preparations to leave, many of them reflected that this might be the most important exercise yet.

Members of Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., capped their field training March 2 with dismounted drills run through the woods of the Fort Riley training area. The drills finished off a week during which the Soldiers rehearsed squad tactics and honed their infantry skills.

"This gives us a chance to work on our squad standard operating procedures," said Capt. Joel Huelsmann, Co. A commander. "It's always a good thing to be able to shoot live bullets against OPFOR (opposing forces), and always a good idea to hone the abilities of the individual squad. The squad is where it starts at, and where the mission comes together."

Two teams broke apart to confront the enemy on this mission.



Spc. Keith Miller, Co. A, 1st Bn., 16th Inf., team leader, attempts to help Spc. Lawrence Colbert correct his weapon malfunction during a dismounted infantry drill March 2.

One hung back while the other charged forward to engage and destroy the gunners positioned against them. Constant communication between the team leaders and between members of the teams would be the key to success.

Despite the Soldiers' conditioning and training, tension filled the air as the first team stalked through weeds that had overgrown the training area. The tension broke suddenly as Spc. Keith Miller, first team leader, shouted, "everybody down!"

Responses that had been sharpened to the point of unthinking reflex took over as the whole team fell to the ground before the first

posed to be making it difficult."

By that point, the teams realized their mission would not be accomplished easily. The morning's cold had evaporated, leaving beads of sweat and a dusty uniform dressing the Soldiers and the seriousness of their situation. Despite the aching muscles that struggled with the weight of the gear they carried and strained to provide the speed demanded by the moving Soldiers, the squad continued forward until all OPFOR gunners had been defeated.

"A whole squad focused on one set of enemies is hard to deal with," Huelsmann said. "Over there, they want you to split up into smaller groups and buddy teams so that you're easier to deal with, but I'm glad that none of us did that today."

Now it was time for the second team to fight through the course as the first team dug in to lay down suppressive fire on the enemy encampment before them. The camp sat on the other side of a stream, etched into the side of a hill. From its vantage point, OFOR gunners could easily see any attackers.

With little cover to hide behind, the Soldiers would have to rely on their speed and accurate shooting to save themselves and overcome any obstacle to the successful completion of their mission.

With a word spoken over the radio, the second team leader pointed to his men and rushed back along the stream. His team was situated on a ridge too deep to cross.

Following their leader's example, the team members raced along the river until they found a fallen log they could leap onto and cross, knowing that they had to act fast or

the first team would run out of ammo.

"It gives the squads a chance to work with one another," Huelsmann said. "We have a lot of new leadership since the last time we deployed, and this gives them an opportunity to discover the nuances of how one another performs. The squad might do very well overall, but if one Soldier is weak in a certain area, it's good to be able to point that out now, when you can do something about it."

Finally, the team reached its objective and tossed a smoke grenade to signal to the other team to shift fire. They began to assault their objective.

MILES gear began to ring out across the hill, some beeping on

the OPFOR gunners and some on the attacking Soldiers. Everybody tried to keep as low as possible to avoid being hit with a laser beam that would set off the MILES alarm and signify that they had been wounded or killed.

When the last of the OPFOR gunners had fallen, the team waved to its counterparts across the stream and assembled for an after action review before breaking for lunch and going through the course again, this time with live ammunition.

"We made a few minor mistakes, but it all comes down to experience; and the more you do it, the better you'll become," said Spc. Lawrence Colbert, one of the team members.

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## Post news in brief

### Hospital adds advice line

Irwin Army Community Hospital has added a Nurse Advice Line as a service to Fort Riley Soldiers and families.

Soldiers and family members can call for advice or health information by dialing 239-DOCS (3627) or toll free (888) 239-DOCS (3627) and follow the automated instructions to connect to the Advice Nurse.

The Nurse Advice Line is available 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. weekdays and 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

The Advice Nurse can help with determining when the caller needs to be seen by a physician, medication use and side effects, symptom management and information about medical procedures, etc.

Questions regarding concerns during pregnancy will be directed to an Advice Nurse in the obstetrics clinic.

### Center benefits severely injured

The Military Severely Injured Joint Support Operations Center now provides service to all severely injured servicemembers and their families. Available worldwide at no cost, regional advocates are available to help with rehabilitation, education and job training, transportation, family counseling and financial planning.

The Center is located in Arlington, Va. The call center is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week and can be reached toll free at (888)774-1361.

For more information, visit [www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,dod1\\_020205.00.html](http://www.military.com/NewsContent/0,13319,dod1_020205.00.html).

### Terror training available online

Antiterrorism Awareness Training required annually for all military, Department of the Army civilians and Department of Defense contract workers is available online at <http://at-awareness.org>.

To access the site, use the access code word "aware."



100th MPAD Spc. Matthew Wester

## Convoy moves to Iraq

Vehicles belonging to 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div. and 1st Squad., 11th Armored Cav. Regt. are lined up in preparation for a convoy from Camp Buehring, Kuwait to Iraq.



Spc. Brandon Lindsey of HHG, 3rd Bde., 1st Armored Div., provides security for his convoy during their trip from Kuwait to Iraq. Lindsey, a Camden, Ark., native and a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom I, said, "I'm going to be a lot more conscious about security this time."

# 10 Soldiers retire

By Jay Baker

Public affairs intern

Ten retiring Soldiers were recognized for their military service at a Feb. 23 ceremony at Riley's Conference Center.

Each Soldier received a Meritorious Service Medal during the ceremony. The medals recognized their outstanding military service. Two Soldiers, Chief Warrant Officer Gerald D. Jean and Sgt. Maj. Benedict T. Zett, will receive the Legion of Merit award for their exceptionally outstanding service.

Retirees' spouses received certificates of appreciation recognizing their contributions and thanking them for the support they gave to their sponsor's careers. All the retirees plan to stay in the area.

Jean, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, retires after 21 years of military service. He plans to live in Junction City and open his own automotive shop.

Zett, of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), retires after 27 years of military service. He plans to live in Junction City and work on his house.

First Sgt. Calvin L. Jones, Company A, 101st Forward Support Battalion, retires after 24 years of military service. He plans to seek employment with the government in the logistics field.

First Sgt. Sergio Ramos of Ser-

vice Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, retires after 23 years of military service. He plans to retire in Junction City and seek employment with the government.

First Sgt. Lawrence C. Rhinehart of the 331st Signal Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team, retires after 21 years of military service. He plans to attend college.

Sgt. 1st Class Sydney O. White of the 924th Military Police Battalion retires after 21 years of military service. He plans to live in the local area and seek employment with the government.

Sgt. 1st Class Roy E. Cephas of HHG, 1st Bn., 34th Armor, retires after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Junction City, finish his college degree and relax.

Sgt. 1st Class Bob Bennett of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, retires after 21 years of military service. He plans to live in Manhattan and seek employment in the automotive technology industry.

Staff Sgt. Michael E. Norwood of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry, retires after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Wakefield and complete his degree at Manhattan Technical College.

Staff Sgt. Steve A. Newman of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech), retires after 20 years of military service. He plans to live in Junction City and seek employment with the Kansas Highway Patrol.

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*Post/Baker*  
Pvt. Andrew Long, 2nd Plt., 1st Bn., 34th Armor, aims and squeezes the trigger at a simulated pop-up target during marksmanship training.

## Shooters practice on simulated range

*By Jay Baker*  
Public affairs intern

Soldiers on Fort Riley can sharpen their aim with target practice without going to the range. Instead, they can use a realistic indoor simulator.

Besides improving Soldiers' sharpshooting skills, using the simulator can decrease the Army's spending on bullets and the Soldier's time in the field, said Rick Eystone, Combat Arms Simulator operator.

The Engagement Skills Trainer is designed to supplement live rifle training with fire simulations. The system allows a Soldier to group shots, react to pop-up targets and react to dismounted realistic enemies. The EST 2000 is a more sophisticated system than the weaponer, an earlier type of electronic weapons training device that allowed.

The EST 2000 records shot groups and analyzes and displays the shooter's aim before and after each shot in an instant replay.

The system has 10 lanes that enable up to that number of firsers to shoot at one time. This system has three scenarios: marksmanship

training and two combat scenarios. The system allows trainers to select a variety of terrain, weather and light conditions. A unit may also incorporate live actors into the scenarios, Eystone said.

Pvt. Andrew Long, 2nd Platoon, 1st Battalion, 34th Armor, used the simulator for the first time during Centurion Stakes. He has not been deployed to Iraq and is new to the unit.

"Everything is new to me right now. I am just trying to learn from my NCO and officers," he said.

Long quickly grouped three rounds and hit 19 of 20 targets. He said he felt confident in his skills.

Several EST 2000 training simulators are located throughout the post. Fort Riley has only a few five-lane and 10-lane simulators but plans to increase the number of simulators to a total of 120 lanes sometime in the future, Eystone said.

"The MPs have a five-lane system and the 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry, is ordering their own. We are providing training to Soldiers on their systems, Eystone said.

Leaders can schedule training at the EST by calling Eystone at 239-5515.

## Soldiers Online debuts

*By Eric W. Cramer*  
Army News Service

WASHINGTON, D.C. — A new Soldiers Online hit the Internet March 8.

The redesigned Web site's address is: [www.army.mil/soldiers](http://www.army.mil/soldiers).

Gil High, editor-in-chief for Soldiers Magazine, said the on-line version will augment the popular print version of the magazine.

"It will be the one-stop source for Soldiers information - news, features, what they need to do for their career, their family and anything else they need to know," High said.

He said the online Soldiers can be accessed through Army Knowledge Online as well as through most Army-related Web sites.

"You should be able to click on an icon that looks like the cover of the magazine and be taken to the

on-line version," High said.

He said the on-line Soldiers will be different from the print publication, although the print version and its archives will be available on line.

"On-line, we'll have daily updates, a new feature each day from commands throughout the Army, from Morale Welfare and Recreation, Army News Service and other organizations," High said. "It will also link to items of career interest. Our goal is to have it link to things of interest to Soldiers."

He said the archives will also contain "Hot Topics" and other specialty publications printed under the Soldiers aegis.

With all this data, one could ask why the printed version will be retained.

"The printed product is something people still enjoy," High said. "Not all readers will have access to the Internet."

# K-State 'vets' check up on Ike

## Medical students monitor horse's surgery recovery

*By Cassidy Hill*  
Asst. Com. Rel. Officer

Surgeons and students with Kansas State University's Veterinary Medical Teaching hospital came to Fort Riley on March 4 to check on an injured trooper.

Ike, a 13-year-old paint quarter horse with the Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard, injured his right front foot in January and subsequently needed surgery.

Officials of the Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital worked with the mounted unit to pay for Ike's surgery and, in turn, used it as a teaching resource for veterinary medicine students.

Dr. Carolyn Arnold, assistant professor of equine surgery, was one of the surgeons who operated on Ike. She and several assistants and students came to the fort's stables March 4 to perform a routine check-up on Ike.

"We came out ... to make sure the cast was intact and to look at his level of comfort and take an

X-ray and make sure that the joint is fusing as expected," Arnold said.

"We are looking to make sure the position of the implant in the bone looked good, and we were looking to see if the joint has started the processing of fusing," Arnold said. Ike's joint was fusing and that she and the teaching staff were very pleased with his progress.

In addition to the surgeons and students visiting Ike, Maj. Gen. Dennis E. Hardy, commander of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, came to visit Ike and check on his recovery.

"Obviously, we weren't sure if he would even survive a few weeks ago, and now, he is back on his feet in the sunshine," Hardy said.

The next step for Ike will be to remove the top pin in his leg and then to remove his cast, Arnold said. She said Ike is expected to be out of his cast in a couple of weeks.



*Post/Hill*  
Ali Diesel, left, senior student at the K-State Medical Teaching Hospital, takes an X-ray of Ike's foot while Brandy McGreer, right, also a senior student, holds Ike still.

## Secretary vows to fix Soldier pay problems

*By Gerry J. Gilmore*  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Army's senior civilian vowed to push efforts to resolve Soldiers' pay issues during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing March 3.

Responding to one senator's concern about a constituent who'd been wrongfully docked for travel and other expenses after he'd lost an arm during military duty in Iraq, Secretary of the Army Francis Harvey noted, "it's disturbing that these things happen, and they shouldn't happen."

The goal and intent during distribution of any Soldier's pay,

Harvey said, "is perfection," noting he "didn't want to see any wounded Soldier have any problems with pay."

Harvey said the Army has expanded its telephone assistance hotlines to help Soldiers resolve pay problems.

He cited recent statistics that say 75 percent of Soldier pay issues are resolved in one day.

"Our objective is 90 percent the first day," Harvey said, noting the end state goal is "zero" pay problems.

Harvey emphasized that the Army was taking actions to fix any Soldier pay problems. "We're going to take care of this," the secretary said.

## Guard repair facility set to move to Salina

*Staff report*

The Kansas Army National Guard announced March 7 it will move its trailer repair operations from its Readiness Sustainment Maintenance Site at Camp Funston on Fort Riley to a new facility in Salina.

Other operations at the Camp Funston facility will remain in place and no employees now working at the facility will lose their jobs, a spokeswoman for the Kansas Adjutant General said March 8.

The Camp Funston facility repairs a variety of heavy military equipment, including trucks and tracked weapons systems. The new facility will be used to rebuild 40-foot military equipment transport-

ation trailers.

Initially, the Guard will employ 40 to 45 civilian workers at a starting wage of about \$12 an hour. Total employees could exceed 100 in the coming years, according to a new release from the Adjutant General's Office.

The Camp Funston facility employs 150 full- and part-time employees.

The Salina Airport Authority has leased a 67,859-square-foot manufacturing facility to the Kansas Military Board. The new facility will be used to house operations for an expansion of the Camp Funston facility. The Airport Authority is completing \$1.56 million in improvements to the facility that will enable the Guard to occupy the building on April 1.

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## Post news in brief

### DES schedules training

The Directorate of Environment and Safety has scheduled the following training courses during March:

**Environmental Team Training:** Environmental Team training certifies environmental team leaders and members in how to handle hazardous materials and waste handling and spill responses at the unit level. Leaders and team members must attend this course within 60 days of appointment to their duties.

Class begins at 9 a.m. each day March 21-22, in Room 6 of Building 407. The course lasts two days.

**Environmental Team Training Refresher:** Annual refresher to the Environmental Team training course.

Class starts at 9 a.m. March 15 in Room 6 of Building 407. The class lasts 2 1/2 hours.

**Battery Hazard Awareness Training (Code Name Lithium):** Code Name Lithium course is designed for key personnel who in their course of duty receive, store, issue and then transport lithium batteries for disposal. This course includes training on the characteristics and hazards associated with the various types of lithium batteries used on Fort Riley.

This course includes training on health, safety and personal protective equipment. It is highly recommended by the Communication and Electronics Command.

Class starts at 10 a.m. every Wednesday in March in Building 1930 at Camp Funston. This class lasts 1 hour.

For information or to enroll in a class, call 239-0446 or check with battalion schools noncommissioned officers.

# Comptroller expands travel pay system

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Less or no paperwork and quicker payment on temporary duty travel claims should become a reality for all staff sections and offices of the 24th Infantry Division (Mech) by Aug. 1 at the latest but maybe as soon as the end of March.

Travelers can expect claims to be paid electronically within 48 hours to the same account their pay goes to, said Suzi Floberg, a management analyst in the G8 Travel Cell.

Advance travel payments usually take about 72 business hours, she said. Anyone issued a government travel credit card normally cannot request an advance. Travel credit cards are issued to anyone who would be expected to travel

on temporary duty at least three times a year.

Directorate of Security (G2) and Directorate of Information Management (G6) personnel already use the Defense Travel System. G2 was the first staff trained to use the computerized system and served as a test organization for G8. Based on the test's success, the comptroller's staff (G8) feels confident about expanding the system throughout 24th Inf. Div. (Mech) elements at Fort Riley, Floberg said.

Initial plans for fielding the new Defense Travel System called for all staffs to be using it no later than Aug. 1. The comptroller has been asked to push to have most of the staffs in the division online with the new system by the end of March, Floberg said.

G8 staffers plan to train one or more members of each division

staff or office to serve as each section's or office's primary "defense travel administrator." The DTA assists other personnel in the section of office to make travel arrangements and file claims once travel is completed.

Several publications giving step-by-step procedures for travel requests and claims come with the training, so the people doing the computerized requests and claims will have easy-to-use guidelines at their desks.

Defense Department contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. developed the \$500 million electronic travel management system. The Defense Department is responsible for 60 percent of all government travel spending, according to a story in the Sept. 28, 2004, Wall Street Journal.

DTS testing began at Fort Riley Dec. 8, 2003. During the

testing period, analysts tried out as many "what if" and "how to" situations for the system that they could think of, because the military doesn't always do normal things when it comes to traveling, Floberg said.

Fort Riley individuals assigned to the division will be able to make most of their travel arrangements and file their travel vouchers and claims when traveling to a temporary duty location, Floberg said.

Some temporary duty travel, such as tactical or classified travel, cannot be handled through DTS, she said. T

hat travel will be handled the old way — with travel clerks submitting documentation, making travel arrangements and helping with travel claims once the trip is completed. Site visits to Kuwait or Iraq, however, can be booked

through DTS, she said.

DTS cannot be used for permanent change of station travel or to file travel claims when temporary travel is cut short and the individual must repay some of the advance travel money received, Floberg said.

Some hurdles must be jumped to make sure the DTS fielding to all division staffs and sections goes successfully, Floberg said. The right software and an encrypted signature identification card reader must be installed in computers that will be used for the DTS actions.

Perhaps more importantly, people who will be traveling must know the Personal Identification Number for their encrypted signature identification card, Floberg said. ID cardholders may have forgotten those PINs since being issued the new cards, she said.

## Sergeant: System requires use to smooth out processes

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

The computerized Defense Travel System being fielded throughout 24th Infantry Division (Mech) organizations will work fine, "once everybody gets used to all the different screens and things to check," said Sgt. 1st Class Frances Bledsoe, the defense travel administrator for the division's intelligence (G2) staff.

G2 temporary duty travelers began using DTS in mid-December, and Bledsoe has been a key cog in turning the computerized systems on in that staff section.

"We've had a couple of people who had difficulty getting paid for

claims," she said, "but that was because of buried account information (on the computer screens) that is easy to miss."

Suzi Floberg, an analyst in the Comptroller's Travel Cell, recalled one instance where the Soldier had not been paid because the person's bank account number had changed and that information had not been changed on the travel claim.

Bledsoe coaches members of the G2 staff to check that sort of information immediately, as well as other default information that must be changed on computer screens, to avoid future problems.

"There's just a lot of information on the screen when it first

comes up, and it's easy to overlook the guidance that's given," Bledsoe said. "After the second or third TDY using the system, they're pretty accustomed to using it and they learn where they need to go (working through the computer screens)."

Bledsoe claims the G2 staff use of DTS hasn't produced any horror stories, but some travelers have experienced some problems when arranging consecutive TDY trips and having to use different accounting codes for different stages of their travel.

"The system doesn't allow for that, so you can't use the system in those instances," Bledsoe said.

Even though members of the

G2 staff have been using DTS since mid-December, Bledsoe still finds herself doing a lot of what she termed "backseat driving," standing behind someone while they work through the computer program to set up travel or file travel claims when they get back.

The backseat driving presents a real problem when the traveler is sitting at some location away from the office, she said. When she gets calls from travelers on the road and needing help with setting up additional travel, Bledsoe has to find a computer and call up the travel program to work through it with the absent Soldier.

"I've got to see what they're seeing in order to help," she said.

All that takes time, Bledsoe said.

The Soldiers traveling get more involved in arranging for their travel, accommodations, rental cars, etc., so they have to do more than just go somewhere and pick up their travel orders, Bledsoe said. Filing travel vouchers and claims takes them about the same amount of time as it did when using just paperwork vouchers, Bledsoe estimated.

Although the new computerized travel makes it easier to track temporary duty travel and expenses, it doesn't cover every type of travel, so "we still have quite a bit of paper involved with the system," Bledsoe said.





# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, March 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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## Community news briefly

### Rabbit month fills storytime

"Listen Buddy" will appeal to children and parents alike attending storytime at 1:30 p.m. March 12 in the Post Library. The story tells of Buddy, a young rabbit who doesn't always listen too well despite his very large ears.

After the story is read, listeners will make their own set of bunny ears to celebrate the library's animal of the month, the rabbit. A light snack also will be served.

Storytime takes place every Saturday at 1:30 p.m. and is open to all children accompanied by their caregivers. There is no charge.

Beatrix Potter, the childhood favorite of many parents, is the featured children's author in March. Many parents will remember her "Tale of Peter Rabbit" and "The Tale of Jemima Puddleduck."

March also is Women's Heritage Month, and the library is recognizing America's First Ladies with materials for adults and children. Other displays highlight St. Patrick's Day with books about Celtic heritage.

For more information, call the library at 239-9582.

### BOSS sponsors fashion show

See this season's hottest fashions and don't miss out on the first opportunity to see the work of tomorrow's designers today at 7 p.m. March 12 when the Fort Riley Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers organization sponsors a fashion show at Riley's Conference Center.

Name brand fashions from the hottest stores in the region will be modeled, as well as fresh, new looks from Kansas State University design students.

Admission is \$7 per person. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact the BOSS president at (785) 239-8147 or ITR at (785) 239-5614.

### Course aids toilet training

Toilet training is a major milestone for any young child and has been known to be a very frustrating time for parents.

Parents who would like to learn simple, practical techniques for effectively toilet training their children or who feel they need support in their training efforts can attend a session that could help.

The course, sponsored by the ACS New Parent Support and Deployment Readiness Programs, is scheduled from noon to 3 p.m. March 14 at Army Community Service in the Soldier and Family Support Center, Building 7264.

Free childcare will be provided and no registration fee will be charged.

Reservations are required and the limit is 20 children. A light snack will be provided and parents must bring their children's shot records.

Call 239-9435 to register.

### Stay In Step with Fort Riley

See what's happening on Fort Riley cable Channel 2 weekdays at noon, 6 p.m., 8 p.m. and 10 p.m.; weekends at 8 a.m., noon and 6 p.m.

## Program eases childcare costs

By Samantha L. Quigley  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — The Defense Department has joined forces with national agencies to help Guard and Reserve families in finding and affording childcare while Mom or Dad is deployed in support of the global war on terrorism.

"Childcare, as you know, is one

of the top (concerns) voiced by families as well as by commands on what's needed," said Jan Witte, director of the Pentagon's Office of Children and Youth. Her office monitors the new program, dubbed Operation Military Child Care.

DoD, in partnership with the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies, which administers the pro-

gram, designed this initiative to benefit those who do not live near military installations, Witte said.

"We have a contract with NACCRRRA to assist us in finding spaces outside the military community for those Guard and Reserve (members) who are deployed and active duty (people) who are not near a military installation," Witte said. "We also hope to assist in reducing the out-of-

pocket expense to the service-member."

When a parent is deployed, she said, the remaining parent may discover that childcare is something the couple hadn't had to think of before. And need is not the only consideration. The extra expense can be shocking.

While OMCC doesn't fully subsidize childcare, it does work to reduce the financial burden,

Witte said. The fees are based on a sliding scale that takes into consideration total family income and the care provider's actual cost, among other things.

To take part in the program, a family member would apply through NACCRRRA via a special Web site or by a toll-free call to (800) 424-2246. The childcare provider also must apply - an

See *Childcare*, Page 12

## Good to go



Eileen Lichtensteiger watches as her husband, Sgt. Joshua Lichtensteiger of Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn., puts their daughter, Grace, to sleep while on lunch break.  
Post/Blackmon

## Baby's birth delays dad's deployment

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

No father wants to leave his 5-day-old daughter and wife behind for a tour in Iraq. But for Sgt. Joshua Lichtensteiger of Company A, 70th Engineer Battalion, delivery complications with both mother and baby made his impending deployment even harder to accept.

"I was thinking the whole time, 'I can go fight a war, but I can't take care of family,'" he said.

After a long and difficult labor and an

emergency Cesarean section delivery, Eileen Lichtensteiger gave birth to their daughter, Grace, on Jan. 28. Grace was born jaundiced and with a hematoma on her head.

According to a medical definition, jaundice is a yellowish discoloration of the skin and eyes and is common in newborn babies who have too much bilirubin in their blood. Bilirubin is a pigment produced as red blood cells break down. When bilirubin levels become too high, it can present a dangerous health condition.

"They did the bilirubin test. If it gets up to 20, they have to do a blood transfusion.

She was at 18.5," Eileen said.

One way to reduce bilirubin levels is phototherapy - exposing the baby's skin to special ultraviolet lights.

"She was in there for six days under the lights. Every time we thought she was doing better and we'd pull her out of the lights, she'd get worse again."

Adding to the complications was the hematoma, or hemorrhage, in Grace's head.

"When she was first born, (the hematoma) covered the whole top of her

See *Baby*, Page 12

## Registry helps locate family, friends

By Gerry J. Gilmore  
AFPS

WASHINGTON — As news coverage of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks flashed across television and computer screens, thousands of Americans wondered if family members living in or visiting New York or Washington, D.C., were alive and well.

Partially due to the personal turmoil caused by the 9/11 attacks, Mark Cerney, a disabled U.S. Marine veteran, established the National Next-of-Kin Registry, a free emergency contact system that can help citizens find missing loved ones in the event of serious accidents or catastrophic national emergencies.

The privately funded NOKR was officially established in January 2004. Four million people have registered to date, Cerney said.

Registry users, Cerney explained, include families and individuals registering personal information about themselves, their children, other relatives and friends.

"All we need is a name and address as far as a point of contact (is concerned)," he pointed out.

NOKR asks for no fee to register. It is supported by voluntary donations and is a nonprofit organization.

Some organizations linked to the NOKR include the International Committee of the Red Cross, the National Center for Missing Adults, the Amber Alert missing children system, homeless care organizations and several state and local agencies.

## Contractors toss out 625 sinks in quarters

Kitchen renovation project to cost about \$5.5M, take until end of 2006

By April Blackmon  
Staff writer

Several kitchen sinks are being thrown out of Fort Riley family quarters as part of a \$5.5 million renovation project.

Some 625 kitchens in the post's four-bedroom townhouses are getting upgrades, said Pam Newman, chief, Facilities Management Branch.

"They gutted the whole kitchen and are replacing everything but the stove and refrigerator," she said. "Everything else is brand new - the lighting, floors, cabinets. There's even an electrical upgrade, more outlets for appliances."

"We're getting a new dishwasher and sink and a lot of nice stuff. We kind of wished for a new stove, but you can't have every-

thing," said Capt. Charles Ayers, whose kitchen was undergoing renovations last week.

"Our garbage disposal broke two weeks before demolition, so the timing worked out well," said Audrey Ayers.

The houses, built in 1976, still had their original kitchens, which were in need of remodeling, said Paula Fultz, special projects officer. "We're working to improve the quality of life and update the kitchens to modern standards," she said.

So far, more than 170 kitchens have been completed. The whole project should be complete by the end of 2006, Fultz said.

Each kitchen takes about 14 working days to finish. During that time, contractors move the stove and refrigerator into the

See *Kitchens*, Page 12



Capt. Charles Ayers, assistant S3 for the 1st Bde., 1st Inf. Div., and his wife, Audrey, attempt to make snacks for their children in their makeshift kitchen/dining room while their kitchen is being renovated.  
Post/Blackmon







## Community news briefly

### Crafts center slates classes

**March 12** and **13** - 2 to 4 p.m., introduction to black and white photography

**March 13** - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrap booking get-together.

**March 14** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., ceramic painting (leprechauns)

**March 14** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., intermediate and advanced stained glass

**March 14** - 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross stitch

**March 15** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., intermediate and advanced stained glass

**March 15** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., mold pouring

**March 15** - 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., wood class project (bed headboard and footboard)

**March 16** - 1 to 3 p.m., introduction to stained glass

**March 19** - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., building in glass

**March 20** - 1 to 4:30 p.m., scrap booking get-together

**March 21** - 7 p.m., crochet, knitting and cross stitch

For more information, call the Arts and Crafts Center at 239-9205.

### Teen Center plans activities

**March 11** - 8 to 10:30 p.m., middle school dance

**March 12** - 9 to 11:30 p.m., high school dance

**March 18** - 2 to 4 p.m., pool party at Long Pool

**March 19** - 1 to 6 pm, Topeka Mall trip

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

### Child services set activities

**March 19** - 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., free childcare for deployed soldiers

For more information, call 239-9173

### BOSS event scheduled

**March 12** - 7 p.m., fashion show at Riley's Convention Center

**March 18** - 7 p.m., St.

Patrick's Day Party at Rally Point

For more information, call 239-8147.

### Riley's to host Easter brunch

Military families can celebrate Easter at Riley's Conference Center March 27. Riley's will offer a traditional brunch of carved top round, scrambled eggs, seasoned home fries, smoked bacon, sausage gravy with biscuit, mashed potatoes and gravy, seasoned green beans, assorted desserts, chilled orange juice, coffee and tea for \$12.95 for adults and \$8.95 for children ages 4 to 12.

Brunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. At 2 p.m., children can participate in one of three Easter Egg hunts on Riley's grounds. Each hunt will be based upon age groups.

Reservations are recommended.

For more information or to make reservations, call (785) 784-1000.

### Group hosts marriage class

The Morris Hill Gospel Congregation sponsors marriage seminars on the first and third Mondays of each month.

For more information, call Morris Hill Chapel at 239-4814.

### Long pool hosts Family Night

Family Fun Night is scheduled for 7 to 10 p.m. March 18, April 8 and April 22 at the Long Fitness Center pool, Building 8069 on Custer Hill.

Cost is \$5 per family, \$1 per guest, passes not included.

The fun nights include music and a giant inflatable obstacle course.

For more information, call 239-5888.

### Strike Zone serves tacos

The Strike Zone snack bar at Custer Hill Bowling Center serves "all you can eat tacos" from 7 to 9 p.m. Tuesday evenings for \$4.90.

## Baby

continued from page 11

head. They had to watch her closely for the first 24 hours, because if it moves down the back of her neck that means that there's still bleeding in the skull. Luckily, it never did," Eileen said.

Fortunately for Eileen, she didn't face alone the birth and health problems Grace suffered.

Given the nature of the situation, doctors met with Joshua's commander, Capt. Eric Swenson.



Post/Blackmon

**Sgt. Joshua Lichtensteiger of Co. A, 70th Eng. Bn. and his father-in-law, Sgt. 1st Class James Nagel of HHB, 101st FSB, enjoy quality time with Grace. Lichtensteiger is set to deploy soon and Nagel will be headed to Germany in May.**

## Kitchens

continued from page 11

occupants' living room areas. With those appliances, residents are still able to cook meals, Fultz said.

"We couldn't reimburse them for eating out," she said. "We checked all avenues to try and compensate them, but it wasn't legal for us to do. So the best thing for them was to let them have the stove and fridge."

Despite having the appliances, some residents chose to eat out.

"We've only eaten here one time. It's more of a choice that we haven't used it. It's easier just to go out," Charles Ayers said.

Inconvenience has been a main problem, Fultz and Newman said, adding that the contractors are working with families to try to limit any concerns.

"It's an inconvenience, but you face that in any kind of renovation," Fultz said.

"There's been some minor stuff, nothing terrible. They've done all they can to limit the inconveniences," Charles Ayers said.

Having contractors in and out of her house for 14 days was not really a problem, said Meredith Snell.

"The workers were very respectful and very kind. They were really good around the kids," she said.

The finished product was well worth the inconvenience and wait, Snell said.

"It's kind of like moving in again. There's more cabinet space. It's very nice and more usable. It was 'worth the wait,'" said Meredith Snell.

"His commander talked with the doctors, and the commander asked if this was an emergency situation, enough for him to stay behind. They said, 'Yes, he's got to be here for two to three weeks.' The commander, God bless him, fought hard for my husband and saw fit to allow him to stay home until our full recovery," Eileen said.

Joshua learned the morning of Feb. 2 - his scheduled deployment date - that he would be able to stay behind until his wife and daughter had fully recovered.

"I felt relieved. I had on my mind going to war (when I thought I should be) staying back with my daughter and wife to make sure they were OK," he said.

Eileen and Grace were in the hospital for a week. Once they were home, Grace had to visit the doctors regularly for follow-up tests.

Having Joshua around to drive them to their doctor appointments was important, Eileen said.

"You can't drive for two weeks

after a C-section. So I was, like how am I going to get her there? I still had to keep bringing her into the doctor after she came home, and I had no way of being able to do that unless he was here," she said. "My dad's here, but he's in the military and my mom works full-time."

"We would've done what we would've had to do if he had gone, but fortunately the unit supported him and left him here, which made it nice," said Eileen's father, Sgt. 1st Class James Nagel of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 101st Forward Support Battalion.

Mother and baby are doing much better. Now that he knows his wife and daughter are well, Joshua said he is ready to deploy to Iraq and catch up with his company.

"Mentally, I'm back in the game because being able to stay here, I can now start concentrating on what I need to do over there, so I'm mentally sound and good to go," he said.



Post/Blackmon

**Meredith Snell and her children, Emma and Jacob, enjoy their newly renovated kitchen. Upgrades include new cabinets, a breakfast bar area and electrical upgrades.**

## Childcare

continued from page 11

important step because of how the subsidy, which comes through the Children and Youth office, is paid out, Witte noted.

"The subsidy goes to the program, not to the individual," she said.

The program officially kicked off March 3 but has been operational as a pilot program since late

November 2004, Witte said. About 40 families are through the application process.

"We had not been doing much prior to this time for the Guard and Reserve as far as childcare and school-age programs have gone," Witte said.

The new program could get about 5,000 Guard and Reserve servicemembers'

children into childcare.

That number could fluctuate if there is a change in the funding that comes in the form of supplemental funding through Congress.

Congress has funded the program for \$7 million, Witte said, though officials hope to expand the program in the future to try to accommodate some of the 38,000 chil-

dren of active duty servicemembers in need of childcare.

NACCRA also supports the Guard and Reserve Operation Child Care, a voluntary program that provides up to six hours of free childcare to Guard and Reserve families whose deployed servicemember is returning home for rest and recuperation.

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, March 11, 2005

America's Warfighting Center

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## Sports news in brief

### Junior baseball registration set

The Junction City Junior Baseball Association will hold tryouts for kids between the ages of 9 and 14 at 6 p.m. March 14, 15 and 17 at North Park in Junction City. Players must attend at least two dates to be considered for the teams. Teams will be formed for players age 9 and 10, age 11 and 12 and age 13 and 14.

The organization also is searching for a coach for the 11- and 12-year-old team. The association has established an indoor training facility to help with skills in the off-season.

For more information, contact Jim Poole at 238-6332, Larry Morgan at 762-6572 or Anita Case at 238-1520.

### Center slates skeet shoot

The Fort Riley Outdoor Recreation Center will host a four-man skeet competition beginning at 10 a.m. March 19 at the center's nearby clay range.

Cost is \$3 per person for 25 clays.

Team pre-registration is required. Shooters will be allowed to shoot 12 and 20 gauge shotguns only and competitors must provide their own shells.

First prize is a traveling trophy.

For more information or to register, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Sports, pools offer activities

**March 14** - 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Cardio Pump Aerobics, King Field House

**March 14** - Noon to 1 p.m., Fitness Yoga, King Field House

**March 15** - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Weight Training Express, King Field House

**March 15** - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Weight Training Express, King Field House

**March 15** - 9 to 11 a.m., Mommy & Me Time, Long Pool

**March 16** - 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Cardio Pump Aerobics, King Field House

**March 17** - Noon to 1 p.m., Fitness Yoga, King Field House

**March 17** - 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. and 5:45 to 6:45 p.m., Weight Training Express II

For more information, call 239-2813.

### Guardsmen get free licenses

The Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks will offer Kansas residents who also are members of the Kansas Army or Air National Guard free hunting and fishing licenses and free state park permits beginning Jan. 1, 2005.

The new program was created by the state legislature as a way to show the state's appreciation for its citizen Soldiers.

Application forms for the 2005 licenses can be downloaded from the KDWP Web site at [www.kdwp.state.ks.us](http://www.kdwp.state.ks.us).

The forms must be signed by the member's unit commander and mailed to KDWP with photocopies of appropriate documentation.

## Army changes 2005 grid slate

By Bob Beretta  
Army News Service

WEST POINT, N.Y. - Army Director of Athletics Kevin Anderson announced March 3 a change in the Black Knights' 2005 football schedule that bene-

fits the program in a number of ways.

Originally scheduled to open its season Sept. 3 at home against Division I-AA member New Hampshire, Army will now open its 2005 campaign with a road date versus Boston College the following week.

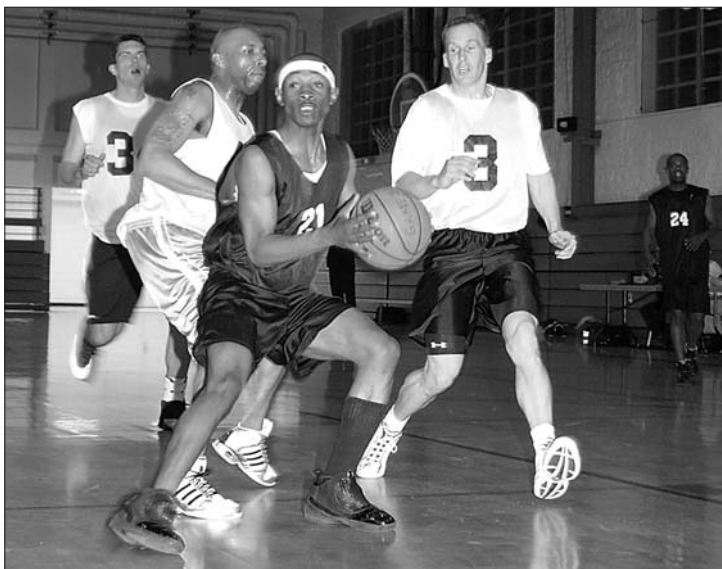
Replacing New Hampshire on the schedule will be a home date against Sun Belt conference member Arkansas State on Nov. 19. Kickoff time for that game is tentatively scheduled for 1 p.m. As part of the agreement, Army will visit Arkansas State for a return matchup in 2006.

Faced with a less than desirable scenario of having two weeks off before their season-ending contest against arch-rival Navy, the Black Knights will now enjoy the traditional single week off before the battle. Additionally, Army's 2005 schedule will now contain just one Division I-AA opponent

rather than two, a stated goal of both Anderson and Head Coach Bobby Ross. Thanks to the scheduling change, the Black Knights will not be forced to open their season at home on Labor Day weekend, an added benefit of the

See Knights, Page 14

## Post 'madness'



Steven Jones of HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, grabs the ball while Touch of Grey's Anthony Rudd (41), Luke Wolfering (34) and Matt Veldey (3) catch up.

## Artillery sharpshooters defeat 'Grey'

By Austin Meek  
Staff writer

It was a tale of two halves when Touch of Grey and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field

Artillery, squared off in the second round of the company-level basketball tournament at King Field House on March 7.

Touch of Grey led early but the hot-shooting Artillery Soldiers dominated the second half and ended up cruising to a 54-44 victory.

Touch of Grey opened a lead in the first half behind sharpshooter Timothy Hanson. Hanson buried a pair of first-half 3-pointers and led all scorers with eight points at the break.

The Artillery Soldiers struggled from the field in the first half, mustering just 11 points. Touch of Grey took a 10-point

lead in the first half behind sharpshooter Timothy Hanson. Hanson buried a pair of first-half 3-pointers and led all scorers with eight points at the break.

Touch of Grey opened a lead in the first half behind sharpshooter Timothy Hanson. Hanson buried a pair of first-half 3-pointers and led all scorers with eight points at the break.

The Artillery Soldiers struggled from the field in the first half, mustering just 11 points. Touch of Grey took a 10-point

See Artillery, Page 14

Post/Blackmon

Matt Veldey (3) of Touch of Grey goes up for a shot while HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA's, Derrick Brooks (00) tries to block and Jewel Brock (11) looks on.

Post/Blackmon

## 3-on-3 tourney begins play

Scion Slam invites all to compete

AFPS

WASHINGTON - Servicemembers and their families will have an opportunity to compete in SCION SLAM, a 3-on-3 single-elimination basketball tournament beginning this month at military bases coast to coast.

The tour began March 5 at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and moves to Fort Bragg, N.C., March 19; Fort Knox, Ky., March 26; Norfolk Naval Station, Va., April 2, and Fort Hood, Texas, April 9.

The tour continues to Fort Carson, Colo., May 7 and to Fort Riley and Fort Leavenworth, Kan., May 14.

The tour concludes at Fort Drum, N.Y., on June 25.

The 3-on-3 teams will compete for cash prizes:

- \$1,000 to the top tournament championship team,
- \$300 for second prize and
- \$100 for third prize.

Players will receive an event T-shirt and spectators and event attendees will have a chance to win other prizes.

Licensed drivers 18 years or older can test drive the SCION xA, SCION xB and SCION iC.

Events also will feature video games for all ages, kids' arcade basketball and wireless Internet access to an interactive park where DJs will cut and spin a hip-hop soundtrack for the day.

Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine morale, welfare and recreation organizations are hosting the tournaments at the installations.

### Want to play?

Authorized MWR patrons can enter a sweepstakes online for an opportunity to win a variety of prizes.

For more details and registration information, please visit the tournament Web site at [www.scion.com/scionslam/](http://www.scion.com/scionslam/)

## Henslow's sparrow: Local 'mouse with wings'

Small bird's numbers indicate viability of tallgrass prairie habitat on post



John Fontenot

By John Fontenot  
Conservation Division

In a constant state of decline since 1966, the Henslow's sparrow (*Ammodramus henslowii*) is listed as endangered, threatened or a species of concern in 16 states and designated as endangered in Canada.

A few weeks ago, I was asked, "Why should we be concerned about a sparrow? Isn't a sparrow a spar-

row?"

The answer to that is simply, "No." There actually are more than 40 species of sparrows, each with its own feeding niche, habitat tolerance and breeding idiosyncrasy.

While the population of common house sparrows is quite numerous and capable of surviving in a broad habitat range, the Henslow's sparrow

is said to be an area-sensitive species, a semi-colonial breeder with a very narrow breeding and wintering habitat range. Only large grasslands, like those found on Fort Riley, are capable of supporting viable populations.

The Henslow's sparrow has a large flat head, gray bill, short tail, dark chestnut wings and an olive-col-

ored nape and central crown stripe. It has been described as a "mouse with wings" (Audubon). When flushed, they prefer to drop to the ground and run rather than fly.

Their call, "tsit-lick," resembles a hiccup.

This species requires large grasslands habitat with dense cover made of high standing dead vegetation and a well-developed litter base.

See Sparrow, Page 16





# Course 'chips' for members

## Staff plans scramble tourney to open golfing season

By Austin Meek  
Staff writer

The tee boxes at Custer Hill Golf Course have seen many great drives. On March 19, however, another kind of drive will take place at Custer Hill: a membership drive.

Gloria Jenkins, operations manager at Custer Hill, said the course staff will host an open house with coffee and donuts followed by a four-person scramble tournament that day.

All current memberships expire March 31, so the open house will be an opportunity for golfers to purchase or renew a membership, Jenkins said.

The 18-hole tournament will be open to members and non-members, Jenkins said.

"Members will pay \$25 for the tournament. Non-members will have to pay their greens fees."

Prizes will be awarded in several categories, including longest drive, straightest drive and closest to the pin.

Coffee and donuts will be served at 9 a.m. and the tournament is set to begin at 11 a.m.,



Post/Meek

Roy Watson sets up for a chip shot at Custer Hill Golf Course as John Stewart (left) and Ed Fiaola (right) look on from the green. With weather warming up, the post golf course staff plans to host a membership drive beginning March 19 with refreshments, a four-person scramble tournament and prizes.

Jenkins said. Golfers wishing to participate in the tournament can contact the pro shop at (785) 784-6000.

March 19 also will be the grand opening of Old Bill's Grill and Pub, a restaurant that will serve golfers at Custer Hill.

"They used to have a grill here, and we wanted to reopen

it," Jenkins said. "We'll have breakfast on Tuesday through Saturday and lunch on Tuesday through Sunday."

The menu will feature hand-pressed hamburgers, salads, fajitas, Philly cheese steaks, hot-dogs and French fries.

With spring on its way, the course extended its hours of

## Want to play?

### Membership prices

E-1 through E-4: \$250

single/\$350 family

E-5 through E-9: \$325

single/\$425 family

Officers and civilians:

\$385 single/\$485 family

### Greens Fees

E-1 through E-4: \$7

weekday/\$10 weekend

E-5 through E-9, officers,

civilians and retirees:

\$13 weekday/\$15 weekend

### Cart Rental

\$10 for nine holes, \$20

for 18 (two-person cart)

operation. The course is open from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday.

Jenkins expects the hours to be extended again once summer arrives.

"Once the season gets into full swing, we'll probably be open from 6 a.m. to dusk," she said.

## Knights

continued from page 13

action.

"While we hate to adjust our 2005 schedule at this time, we feel the benefits derived from this change merits the action," Anderson said. "The change helps to provide much greater balance in terms of home and road games. We also feel this new composition of home dates is much more attractive to our fan base."

Rather than playing three home games in September, two in October and one in November, Army will now play two home games in September, two in October and two in November. Previously, the Black Knights were to appear at Michie Stadium just once after Oct. 8.

"I am very pleased about the schedule change," Ross said. "First of all, I'm very happy that we don't have a three-week lay-over prior to the Navy game. That's a key factor for us. I was really quite concerned about that once I saw the way the schedule was previously arranged."

"Secondly, this adds another Division I-A opponent to our schedule, which is good for us. And finally, it does balance our home schedule with our away schedule. I think that's critical as well. All in all, I'm very pleased with the change. We're excited about it and looking forward to the challenge of playing Arkansas State."

Army opens its 2005 season and second under Ross on Sept.

## 2005 Schedule

Sept. 10 at Boston College, TBA

Sept. 17 vs Baylor, 1 p.m.

Sept. 24 vs Iowa State, 1 p.m.

Oct. 1 vs Connecticut, 1 p.m.

Oct. 8 vs Central Michigan, 1 p.m.

Oct. 15 at TCU, TBA

Oct. 22 at Akron, TBA

Nov. 5 at Air Force, TBA

Nov. 12 vs Massachusetts, 1 p.m.

Nov. 19 vs Arkansas State, 1 p.m.

Dec. 3 vs Navy, 2:30 p.m.

Dates are subject to change.

10 at Boston College. The Black Knights begin their home slate by hosting Baylor on Sept. 17 at 1 p.m., the first of four consecutive games at Michie Stadium.

Season tickets and individual game tickets for the 2005 Army football season are now on sale at the Army Ticket Office. Fans can also purchase tickets to all Black Knight games by calling the Army Ticket Office at 1-877-TIX-ARMY (open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.), or by visiting the Army Athletic Association's Official Web site at [www.goARMYsports.com](http://www.goARMYsports.com).

## Artillery

continued from page 13

lead into intermission.

The Artillery's perimeter shooters caught fire in the second half, connecting on seven of 10 3-pointers.

Andrew Smith and Syndicate Walker led the attack, scoring 12 second-half points apiece.

"They had a couple guys step up and hit some threes," Hanson said. "That made it really tough on our defense."

After watching the Artillery's outside shooters erase the half-time deficit, Touch of Grey decided to force HHB to win the game at the free-throw line.

Touch of Grey committed fouls on six consecutive possessions, but the strategy did not pay off. Artillery Soldiers connected on 10 of 12 free throws in the stretch.

Touch of Grey, which suited up just five players, was outscored by 23 points in the second half.

Hanson said fatigue contributed to his team's second-half collapse. "We just ran out of gas," Hanson said. "We weren't moving on offense. It's hard when you only have five guys."

Smith led the Artillery with 16 points, followed by Walker's 14. Kevin Curry and Steven Jones

added nine points apiece for HHB.

Hanson's 15 points led a balanced attack for Touch of Grey. Anthony Redd had 10 points, Luke Wolterling had eight, Thomas Dawson had seven and Matt Veldey rounded out the scoring with four points.

Jewel Brock, who scored six points for the Artillery, said his team's second-half run was dedicated to two HHB Soldiers killed in a weekend car accident.

"We want to take home the championship for them," Brock said.

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## Sports news in brief

### Softball teams sought for play

The Manhattan Parks and Recreation Department is accepting team registrations for Wildcat League Softball. Leagues are available for children 10 years old and younger and 16 years old and younger.

Teams will be accepted on a "first pay, first play" basis for all age divisions.

To register, stop by the Parks and Recreation Office at 1101 Fremont St. or call (785) 587-2757, before 5 p.m. March 25 or before the leagues are full.

### Hunters can enter contest

All hunters harvesting turkey in the hunting areas of Fort Riley can enter the 2005 Longest Turkey Beard Contest sponsored by the Outdoor Recreation Center.

Registration for the contest will be through April 7.

Spring turkey hunting season is April 13 through May. The youth season for hunters 16 and younger is April 8-10. Hunters who want to enter the contest can sign up at the Outdoor Recreation Center, Building 9011, Rifle Range Road. Cost is \$15 per person. The number of participants in the contest will determine the prizes to be awarded in three categories: typical, non-typical and youth.

Hunters on Fort Riley must possess a Kansas Hunting License, Hunter Safety Card and a Fort Riley Hunting Permit.

For more information about the contest and about hunting on Fort Riley, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

### Strike Zone offers specials

For a limited time only, the Strike Zone at Custer Hill Bowling Center will be offering Wednesday Night Specials between 5 and 8 p.m. These deals will go away when Rally Point's kitchen reopens.

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# Artillery stays alive with win

## MEDDAC falls by one point

By Austin Meek  
Staff writer

Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, kept its hopes of a company-level basketball championship alive March 2 by holding off a scrappy Medical Department Activity team 46-45 at King Field House.

The game featured two contrasting styles of offense. MEDDAC's strong low-post play against the Artillery's perimeter-oriented attack.

MEDDAC built an early lead behind solid production from big men Gary Ream and Wesley Westbrook. Guard Justin Chapman also provided an offensive spark for MEDDAC, slicing through the Artillery defense to score nine first-half points.

The outside shots began to fall for the Artillery Soldiers late in the first half, however, and they took a 30-26 lead into intermission.

"They only had one or two shooters, but we gave them too many open shots," said Westbrook. "We gave them open shots and they were making them."

MEDDAC erased the Artillery's halftime deficit by using an effective full-court press. The two teams went back and forth throughout the second half, setting up a furious finish.

Down by two points with under a minute to play, the Artillery Soldiers looked for an outside shot. Syndicate Walker's 3-point attempt was off the mark, but the Artillery team grabbed the rebound to keep their offensive game alive.

Andrew Smith came open at the top of the key and buried a deep 3-pointer to give the Artillery a 46-45 lead with 28 seconds remaining.

Although his shot hit nothing but net, Smith said he wasn't sure the ball was going to go in. "Actu-

ally, I thought it was a little bit off," he said. "I was getting ready to follow my shot and try to get the rebound."

MEDDAC had one final shot, but Ronnie Henderson's 3-point attempt hit the back iron and bounced away, preserving the win for the Artillery.

Walker led all scorers with 14 points. Jewel Brock scored nine and Gary Brooks and Andrew Smith each had eight for the Artillery.

Chapman led MEDDAC with 13 points but scored just four in the second half. Westbrook was the only other MEDDAC player to score in double figures, finishing with 10 points.

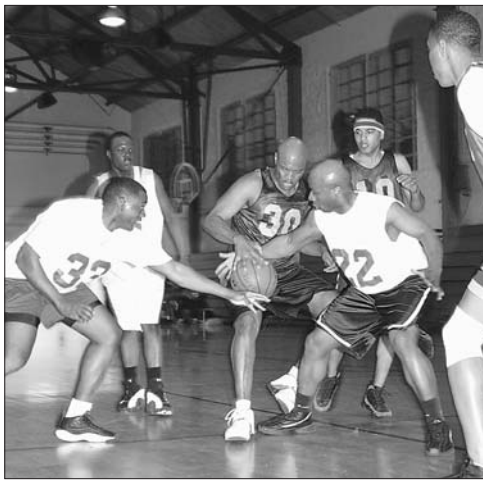
The win meant HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, would face Touch of Grey in the second round of the post tournament. Smith said his team had a good chance to run the table and take home a championship.

"A couple of our starters weren't even here. If we can get our whole team together, I think we can make a run," he said.



Post/Meek

Justin Chapman (31) of MEDDAC attempts a shot in the lane as Jewel Brock (11) and Kevin Curry (3) of HHB, 1st Bn., 5th FA, look on.



Chemical team member Julius Tate (5) and Signal Co. players Aaron Costa (10) look on as JP Calhoun (30) of 331 Sig. Co. tries to regain control of the ball while Gelonzo Davis (33) and Eldon-da Davis (22) of 172nd Chem. Co. try for the steal.

Post/Blackmon

# Chemical slips by Signal

By Austin Meek  
Staff writer

"Survive and advance" is every basketball team's motto when tournament time rolls around. On March 7, the 172nd Chemical Company did just that, rallying for a 38-37 win against the 331st Signal Company in the second round of the post basketball tournament.

Points were at a premium in the first half as both teams struggled to find offensive rhythm.

Robert Payne and George Cabarraus were the only Chemical Company players to record a basket in the first half. Payne had nine on three 3-pointers and Cabarraus added six.

Most of the Signal's offense centered around point guard Aaron Costa, who was able to penetrate the Chemical Company's zone defense and dish out

assists to big man John Lewis. Lewis scored seven first-half points and helped the Signalmen to an 18-15 halftime advantage.

The Signal Company opened a 32-23 lead midway through the second period and appeared poised to deliver the knockout blow.

However, Chemical Company responded with a 15-3 run to pull ahead by three points.

Cabarraus keyed the run with a pair of 3-pointers and several drives to the basket. Fourteen of Cabarraus' game-high 20 points came after halftime. Julius Tate also stepped up in the second half, recording three crucial baskets during Chemical Company's big run.

The Signal Company scored a layup at the buzzer to pull within one point, but the Chemical Company held on for the 38-37 victory.

Doug Nelson, Chemical Company's coach, said his team's hard-nosed defense was a factor down the stretch.

"We just had to step up and play defense," Nelson said. "Defense is what keeps us in the game. We're probably the smallest team in the league, so we just had to go out there and hustle."

Lewis was the leading scorer for the Signal Company, tallying 12 points in the losing effort. Costa added seven for the Signalmen.

In addition to his 20 points, Cabarraus also led his Chemical Company teammates in rebounding.

Nelson said he was proud of the effort by Cabarraus and his teammates. "I wasn't the man tonight," said Nelson, who did not score in the game. "But the other guys stepped up. Cabarraus played his heart out."

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# Sparrow

continued from page 13

Can we survive without the Henslow's sparrow? "Yes." The earth will continue to rotate, the sun will continue to shine and the human race will continue to exist. The Henslow's sparrow, however, acts as an umbrella species. They are a representative of all species within their environment and an indicator of the productivity of the grasslands. They aid in alerting us to unforeseen problems within our environment.

"When one tugs at a single thing in nature, he finds it attached to the rest of the world," said renowned naturalist John Muir.

The Henslow's sparrow's

grassland habitat is among the most endangered ecosystems in North America. The loss of historical breeding range is estimated as high as 99.9 percent. This loss is detrimental to all grassland-dependent species. It began with agriculture and the farming of the prairie.

As a result, the Henslow's sparrow adapted to breeding in hayfields and pastures of grasslands where it was met with frequent disturbances of mowing (haying). These disturbances have intensified on remaining hayfields as agricultural lands are lost to development each year. In addition, wintering ranges are being transformed from fire-

depend savannas or prairies to row crop production, pine plantations and urban development.

As stewards of our natural resources, we are faced with many challenges. How do we satisfy the needs of so many with the willing sacrifices of so few?

Some management projects include the removal of woody vegetation, two- to three-year rotations on prescribed burns and haying. Although tolerant of the condition, woody encroachment eventually precludes Henslow's sparrow's use of the habitat. With two- to three-year rotations between burns, vegetation is allowed to recover between disturbances to provide suitable

habitat while keeping succession in check.

Other important considerations consist of timing and extent of disturbances to crucial habitat, some of which, we have no control over.

At present, the specific spatial requirements for the Henslow's sparrow are unclear. Through research at Fort Riley, we will continue to examine specific needs such as spatial or habitat requirements. Whether it be in support of the military mission or combined habitat requirements of all grassland species, our ultimate goal is to maintain the intricate balance between economics versus extinction.



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## Leisuretime ideas

### At the movies:

The Barlow Theater doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost \$3.50 for adults and \$1.75 for children 11 and under. Children under age 5 are free except during children's matinees or expected sell-outs.

**March 11** – The Wedding Date (PG-13)

**March 12** – Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)

**March 13** – The Wedding Date (PG-13)

**March 17** – Phantom of the Opera (PG-13)

**March 18** – Are We There Yet? (PG)

For more information, call (785)784-2226 or 784-2640.

### Manhattan:

**What:** St. Patrick's Day Parade and Road Races, 27th annual parade, carnival activities, road races, and Blarney Breakfast.

**When:** 8 p.m. March 12

**Where:** Aggieville Business District

**Phone:** (785) 776-8050

**Admission:** Free

### Wichita:

**What:** Verdi's "Aida." Combines a tragic love triangle with rich music, majestic choruses, and impressive sets and costumes. Grand opera at its grandest.

**When:** 8 p.m. March 11

**Where:** 225 W. Douglas, Century II Concert Hall, Wichita Grand Opera

**Phone:** (316) 683-3444

**Admission:** \$30 to \$90

### Hutchinson:

**What:** Fab Four. This group is unquestionably the best Beatle tribute ever. The Fox will rock with your favorite Beatle songs.

**When:** 8 p.m. March 12

**Where:** 18 E. 1st, Historic Fox Theatre

**Phone:** (620) 663-5861 or (877) 369-7469

**Admission:** \$22, \$20 or \$18

### Larned:

**What:** Antique Show and Sale. Antique dealers gather from a 5-state area to sell antiques, artifacts, collectibles, glass, and linens.

**When:** 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. March 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 13

**Where:** 14th and Toles, Larned National Guard Armory

**Phone:** (620) 285-6916 or (800) 747-6919

**Admission:** \$1 per day

### Lawrence:

**What:** St. Patrick's Day Parade. Annual parade featuring a wide array of floats and the St. Patrick's Day Queen and her court.

**When:** 8 p.m. March 17

**Where:** Downtown, north on Massachusetts from 11th Street

**Phone:** (785) 749-6677

**Admission:** Free

### Topeka:

**What:** What's Hot and What's Not with Kathleen Guzman. Luncheon and presentation with Guzman, regular on Antiques Road Show, about what collectibles are hot and

what's not. Reservations required.

**When:** Noon March 18

**Where:** Washburn University Campus

**Phone:** (785) 231-1124

**Admission:** \$50 in advance

### Abilene:

**What:** Ida Stover Eisenhower Memorial Quilt Show. See a collection of quilts both old and new. The art of quilting is kept alive with nearly 70 quilts on display.

**When:** 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, March 14-27

**Where:** 412 S. Campbell

**Phone:** (785) 263-2681

**Admission:** \$3

### Salina:

**What:** Wynton Marsalis. Performance by a renowned jazz trumpeter, winner of eight classical and jazz Grammys.

**When:** 7:30 p.m. March 22

**Where:** 151 S. Santa Fe, Stiefel Theatre for the Performing Arts

**Phone:** (785) 827-1998

**Admission:** \$40 to \$55

### Emporia:

**What:** American Veterans Traveling Tribute. Experience the power and emotion that comes with this impressive memorial for 58,000 Veterans who died in the Vietnam War.

**When:** March 25-29

**Where:** Industrial Road and U.S. Highway 50, Lyon County Fairgrounds

**Phone:** (620) 342-2294

**Admission:** Free

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# Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 18

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, March 11, 2005

## Leisuretime ideas

### ITR manager suggests:

Information, Ticketing and Registration office at Fort Riley offers a wide variety of options for leisuretime activities. Manager Teresa Mayes suggests the following:

- **A Colorado Ski package** for spring break. Military discounts are available for lift tickets at Winter \* Park, Copper Mountain, Breckenridge, Keystone or Vail.

- **Bargain cruises.** Authorized patrons can start taking advantage of special military discounts.

- **Discount movie tickets** for Seth Childs Cinema in Manhattan are available through ITR. Tickets are not movie specific and have an expiration date of December 2005.

- **Country Stampede** is a weekend of country music and camping June 23-26 at Tuttle Creek State Park in Manhattan. The weekend is fun filled and action packed with great performers, fantastic food, colorful crafts and other activities. Top performers will include Big & Rich, Keith Urban, ZZ Top and Montgomery Gentry. Early bird discounted tickets are available through ITR.

ITR is located at Building 6918 on Trooper Drive, across from the Post Exchange. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

For more information, call 239-5614 or 239-4415.

## Oz found again – in Wamego

### Special to the Post

WAMEGO — "There's no place like home. There's no place like home."

Who hasn't clicked their heels just like Dorothy Gale in "The Wizard of Oz" movie in the hope of being transported back to a place where colorful dreams come true? Well, neither a wizard or ruby slippers are required to visit the wonderful world of Oz.

A short drive to Wamego, located 70 miles west of Kansas City near Interstate 70, and the Oz Museum is all that's needed to visit Dorothy, Toto and all the characters and wonders of the world-wide phenomenon that's Oz.

The Oz Museum, 511 Lincoln, houses one of the largest private collections of Oz memorabilia in the world. The collection belongs to Wamego native Tod Machin and consists of more than 2,000 items from the 1939 MGM-released "The Wizard of Oz" movie starring Judy Garland and the worldwide appeal of Frank L. Baum's classic children's story.

Open the door of the remodeled 1880s mercantile building on the main street of town and walk into the Gale family farm-

yard. Then, step through the front door of Dorothy's sepia-toned house and into the technicolor world of Oz and the museum that consists of four galleries, eight alcoves and 20 display cabinets. Each is filled with books, toys, photographs, pages from scripts, posters, clothing and a sequin from Dorothy's original pair of ruby slippers.

Other displays contain limited edition Oz dolls, the dress Diana Ross wore in "The Wiz," a number of products inspired by Oz and its characters and Wizard of Oz books from around the world, including Japan, Spain and Russia.

According to museum curator Jim Ginavan, there's something for everyone at the museum. "I hope people find it's not just about the movie," Ginavan said.

Wamego's connection to the Oz story doesn't end at the museum. In many ways, Oz begins just down the street at the Columbian Theatre. The historic theatre at 521 Lincoln houses several murals from the 1893 Columbian Exposition and World's Fair. The fair was referred to as the "White City" and, with its elaborate walkways and ornate exhibits, became the inspiration for Baum's creation of the Emerald City of Oz.

### If you go:

The Oz Museum (right) is located in downtown Wamego at 511 Lincoln. It is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$7 for age 13 and up and \$4 for age 4-12. Kids under 3 are free. A military ID gets a \$2 discount on all tickets. For more information, call (866) 458-TOTO.



Dorothy holds Toto tightly in this exhibit at the Oz Museum in Wamego, a short drive from Fort Riley.

6 x 10.5"  
Briggs full color